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59th plenary meeting

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Official Records

President: Mr. Eliasson (Sweden)

*In the absence of the President, Ms. Bahemuka
 (Kenya), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

 fulfil the decades-old quest of the Palestinian people to
 exercise their right to self-determination.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 15 (continued)

Question of Palestine

**Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the
 Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
 (A/60/35)**
Report of the Secretary-General (A/60/539)
**Draft resolutions (A/60/L.28, A/60/L.29,
 A/60/L.30 and A/60/L.31)**

Mr. Akram (Pakistan): We concur with the 26 July 2005 statement of the Security Council (*see A/60/539, para. 3*) that the situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine, remains among the most important items on the agenda of the United Nations. Pakistan has consistently supported all bilateral and multilateral efforts aimed at the peaceful resolution of the question of Palestine in all its aspects. The vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, has been embraced by the entire international community. We must all work to realize that vision. Pakistan eagerly looks forward to the early establishment of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian State, which would

It is heartening to note that in the period under review, despite sporadic violence, a number of positive developments have taken place. These include: a ceasefire and agreement to end violence, resulting in greater restraint in Israeli military activities and a decrease in the number of deaths and injuries compared with the similar period last year; the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Gaza in September 2005 and the transfer of control of five West Bank cities to the Palestinian Authority; increased coordination between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority since the Sharm el-Sheikh summit in February 2005; the recent agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority to open the Gaza borders, which will permit the freer movement of Palestinians; and the release of a number of Palestinian prisoners. The electoral dynamics both in Israel and in Gaza and the West Bank may also create positive momentum.

Nevertheless, one cannot disregard the challenges ahead: the continued restrictions on and the suffering of the Palestinian people; the continuing construction of the separation wall; the continued settlement activity in the West Bank; and incidents of violence, which unfortunately continue to occur.

What is most important, at this stage, is that both parties demonstrate their clear commitment to implement the further steps set out in the Quartet's road map, including a withdrawal from the West Bank leading to the establishment of a Palestinian State.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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Thereafter, the so-called final-status issues — especially Jerusalem and the refugees — will also need to be resolved in accordance with the road map and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

As they continue to implement the road map and the relevant Security Council resolutions — especially resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) — the parties also need to take several other immediate steps: first, ensuring the safety and well-being of all civilians on both sides and a complete cessation of all acts of violence, including military attacks, destruction and acts of terror; secondly, freezing and halting all settlement expansion activities, removing illegal settlement outposts and ending further construction of the security fence in the West Bank, which encroaches on what is Palestinian land; thirdly, the continued development of the political process on the Palestinian territories and reform and reinforcement of Palestinian institutions; and fourthly, international assistance to the Palestinian people and to the Palestinian Authority.

Of course, the international community's political support for the peace process remains crucial. Simultaneously, there is a pressing need for the economic reconstruction and rehabilitation of the occupied Palestinian territories. We welcome the Gleneagles Group of Eight Summit pledge of \$3 billion in aid to the Palestinian Authority. That example needs to be followed by the entire international community to help the Palestinian Authority to overcome the wide-ranging problems facing the Palestinian people, especially in the economic and social sectors.

The international community should focus its attention on the recommendations of the Quartet's Special Envoy, Mr. Wolfensohn, in particular the recommendations to help the Palestinian Authority overcome its fiscal crisis and achieve fiscal stabilization, as well as to implement quick-impact economic programmes.

For several decades, the denial of Palestinian rights, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the occupation of Palestinian territories have radiated to create an environment of anger, insecurity and confrontation in the Middle East and the Islamic world. The solution of the Palestine issue will produce a positive effect of equal magnitude in the region, promoting the prospects of resolving other political, social and economic problems that afflict the region

and advancing the aims of international peace and security.

Mr. Adekanye (Nigeria): On behalf of the delegation of Nigeria, I wish to express our appreciation for the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (A/60/35), and to commend its Bureau, under the chairmanship of Senegal, for the efforts made in fulfilling its mandate. Undoubtedly, the exertions of the Committee have helped shine a much-needed searchlight on the plight of the Palestinian people, the issue of whose rehabilitation through the creation of a viable Palestinian State is at the centre of the Middle East crisis. In Nigeria's view, unless the question of Palestine is confronted in all its ramifications, the well-considered efforts of the international community will come to naught.

A just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question requires of both sides in the conflict a genuine commitment to forswear the use of violence in the pursuit of their objectives. That is the only way to create an atmosphere conducive to confidence and trust. It also demands of both sides the courage to rein in those elements that are afraid of the future because of past experiences. The ghosts of the past can be exorcised only when the seeds of hope for the future are planted. Nigeria believes that the time to plant such seeds is now. We therefore salute both the Israeli Government and the Palestinian National Authority for their efforts in that regard.

A commitment to peaceful dialogue and respect for agreements reached as a result thereof will be consistent with the principle of an independent Palestinian State existing side by side with the State of Israel within secure borders. This also would be consistent with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978), among others. Nigeria, therefore, calls for an urgent resumption of negotiations within the framework of the Quartet, in order to build on the momentum provided by recent positive developments in the region.

Nigeria welcomes the recent pullout of Israeli forces and settlements from the Gaza and commends the Rafah border agreement to facilitate the movement of the Palestinian people. As President Olusegun Obasanjo, current Chairman of the African Union, declared in his message on the occasion of the

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People yesterday (see A/AC.183/PV.290).

"the recent removal of Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank, including the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and the opening of the Rafah border crossing by the President of the Palestinian Authority [are] helpful signs for peace. These specific steps should serve to galvanize action of the parties in particular, and the international community in general, towards a definitive solution that will bring peace to the region as a whole".

The leaders at the Sharm el-Sheikh summit of February 2005 reaffirmed their vision and commitment and created a momentum that we should not allow to wane or to fail.

With respect to the Syrian Golan Heights, Nigeria calls on the parties to adopt flexibility and to resume peace negotiations under the principle of land for peace, which, in our view, will guarantee much-needed peace and security in the region. We regard resolutions 56/31, 56/32, 57/111 and 57/128, on Jerusalem and on the Syrian Golan, as well as Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981), among others, as providing the valuable framework for such a peace. Their implementation would help to address the security concerns that have inhibited a solution. Such a course of action would enhance the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace and would create a climate of trust for the much-needed development in the region. We trust that the international community will continue to be engaged with both sides in the search for peace.

Nigeria wishes, in this regard, to express appreciation to James Wolfensohn, the Quartet's Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement, for his tenacity and commitment, and to Alvaro de Soto, the new United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, and his team, for their hard work. Their efforts deserve the unwavering support of the international community in general and of the parties to the conflict in particular.

Finally, it is equally appropriate to commend the valiant efforts of the officials of the United Nations system and the international community, in particular

the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, who over the years have invested their time and energies in the cause of peace and security in the region. Their example and their commitment should elicit a commensurate response from the international community to turn the Middle East into a region where all its peoples can live in peace and harmony.

Mr. Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic): At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, I should like to express our appreciation to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for the work it has done with the objective of promoting a solution to the Palestinian issue.

The international community has, for many decades, repeatedly called for a peaceful resolution of the question of Palestine. It is regrettable to note that, despite the great efforts exerted, fewer tangible results have been achieved. As reflected in the report contained in document A/60/35, the violence has been continuing unabated, causing great suffering to and taking the lives of the peoples of the region, mostly the Palestinian people. In that regard, we urge the parties concerned to stop the violence and all acts that could increase tensions and confrontation. Both sides need to exercise maximum restraint and resume negotiations as a precondition leading towards the implementation of the Quartet's road map, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

This year, although the situation remains difficult and complex, we have witnessed some progress, including the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and four small settlements in the northern West Bank. In our opinion, such steps should be further promoted. However, further progress will be unlikely if efforts to expand the settlements in the West Bank and to complete the construction of the wall on Palestinian land — which are contrary to international law and numerous resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as the provisions of the road map — are not abandoned.

Peace and stability in the Middle East are not likely to be achieved unless the Palestinian issue is resolved in a just and reasonable manner. In that regard, the Lao People's Democratic Republic reaffirms its unswerving support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to exercise its right to self-

determination, including the right to create its independent State of Palestine. We therefore urge the parties concerned to engage in serious dialogue, settle their conflict and realize the vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace, within secure and internationally borders.

The peoples of the Middle East, and in particular the Palestinian people, have long suffered. Like other peoples the world over, they have all earned the right to live in peace. The international community is duty-bound to do all it can to help the parties concerned to resolve their problems peacefully and as rapidly as possible. We believe that, through serious and sincere dialogue among the concerned parties, the question of Palestine can be resolved.

Ms. Davis (United Kingdom): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Iceland, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

The European Union has welcomed the successful conclusion of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the northern West Bank as a significant step towards implementing the road map. It has praised the positive steps by both sides, but emphasized that more remained to be done. The European Union calls for renewed action in parallel by both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map and commitments made at Sharm el-Sheikh.

The European Union welcomes the Agreement on Movement and Access between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Those issues are fundamental to improving the humanitarian situation in Gaza and essential for promoting peaceful economic development. The Agreement signifies a major breakthrough. The priority now is to ensure that the commitments made in it are translated into reality. The European Union is prepared to undertake the third-party role proposed in the Agreement. It will monitor the operations of the Rafah border crossing point and provide assistance to reinforce Palestinian border-management capacities. The European Community is taking forward the necessary capacity-building through training, equipment and technical assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

The European Union welcomes the holding of multiparty elections for the Palestinian Legislative

Council foreseen for January 2006. The European Union underlines that free and fair elections are an indispensable step in the process of consolidating democratic institutions. The European Union urges the Palestinian Authority to uphold all provisions of the electoral law. The Council urges Israel to cooperate fully with the Palestinian Authority in facilitating the preparation and conduct of the elections.

The European Union welcomes the Palestinian Authority's statements condemning violence and urging Palestinian groups that have engaged in terrorism to abandon that course and engage in the democratic process. Ultimately, those who want to be part of the political process should not engage in armed activities, as there is a fundamental contradiction between such activities and the building of a democratic State.

The European Union stands ready to assist the Palestinian Authority financially, technically and politically with the elections, in liaison with other members of the Quartet and the international community, to ensure that the electoral process is conducted in accordance with international principles for genuine democratic elections. To that end, the European Union is ready to send an observer mission.

The European Union is concerned by actions that could prejudice a final status agreement.

The European Union remains committed to the two-State solution as laid out in the road map and agreed between the parties, which would result in a viable, contiguous, sovereign and independent Palestinian State existing side by side in peace with an Israel living within recognized and secure borders.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on agenda item 15.

I should like to inform members that action on draft resolutions A/60/L.28, A/60/L.29, A/60/L.30 and A/60/L.31 will be taken immediately after the debate on agenda item 14, "The situation in the Middle East".

Agenda item 14

The situation in the Middle East

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/60/258 and A/60/539)

Draft resolutions (A/60/L.32 and A/60/L.33)

The Acting President: I call on the representative of Egypt to introduce draft resolutions A/60/L.32 and A/60/L.33.

Mr. Adel (Egypt) (spoke in Arabic): We are meeting today to discuss the question of the Middle East — a hotbed of tension where conflict has continued for decades as a result of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories. That occupation has led to instability and insecurity, not only in the Middle East, but throughout the world. The time has come to seriously address that problem on the basis of the values and principles enunciated in the outcome document (*resolution 60/1*) of the High-level Plenary Meeting that marked the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations. We should do so with the determination to bring about a just and lasting peace in all parts of the world, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter. That is the only way to ensure security for all peoples, and to accord due priority to bringing about the comprehensive and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Every year the General Assembly discusses the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East" and adopts two particularly important draft resolutions on the item. One of them deals with the issue of Jerusalem. Beginning with resolution 181 (II) of 1947, successive General Assembly and Security Council resolutions have reiterated the need to preserve the special status of that city, declaring illegitimate all measures taken by successive Israeli Governments aimed at changing it before final-status negotiations take place between the Palestinian and Israeli parties.

The other draft resolution reaffirms the determination of the international community to put an end to the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and to deal with Israel's continued violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981) until Israel completely withdraws from the Syrian Golan and until the speedy resumption of political negotiations with a view to reaching a just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Arab peace initiative, which was adopted at the Beirut Arab Summit of 2002, reiterated that peace is the strategic option of the Arab countries, to be achieved within the framework of the strict implementation of the principle of land for peace and in accordance with international law. The Arab

initiative also reiterated that an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 would open the door to the normalization of relations between Israel and all Arab countries and allow the entire Middle East region to live in peace and security. In spite of the tireless efforts of the Egyptian leadership to give impetus to the peace process with a view to implementing that initiative, Israel has rejected it and continues to take unilateral measures — measures that constitute major obstacles for the international community as it tries to move on to the next phase of the process.

We look forward to more active involvement by the major actors in the international community, including the United Nations, so as to give impetus to the peace process and to begin serious peace negotiations among all parties with a view to achieving the full withdrawal by Israel from all the occupied territories.

The unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and from some settlements in the West Bank shows that when there is political will, obligations — foremost among them the full withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian territories — can be fulfilled. It is therefore important for the Quartet to intensify its efforts to urge Israel to complete the implementation of its obligations under the road map. Israel should also avoid policies and practices that are harmful to the peace process. It should demonstrate goodwill and begin to promote mutual trust with the Palestinian party, within a specific time frame, in order to lend momentum to the Arab initiative with a view to abiding by its obligation to withdraw.

The Syrian and Lebanese tracks are of particular importance. There must be a complete and comprehensive withdrawal from all Arab lands, including Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories. A just and comprehensive peace requires the immediate initiation of negotiations. Israel should therefore no longer refuse to participate in such negotiations, but should evince the courage necessary to reach both short- and long-term agreements.

I would like to introduce two draft resolutions under agenda item 14, "The situation in the Middle East": draft resolution A/60/L.33, entitled "Jerusalem", and draft resolution A/60/L.32, entitled "The Syrian Golan". Since the issuance of the draft resolutions, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Namibia, South Africa and the

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have added their names to the list of sponsors of A/60/L.33; Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Namibia, South Africa and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have added their names to the list of sponsors of A/60/L.32.

Draft resolution (A/60/L.33), on Jerusalem, recalls relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions regarding the special status of Jerusalem — resolutions that have declared as null and void all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, aimed at altering the status and character of Jerusalem.

The draft resolution also recalls the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, and stresses that any comprehensive and just solution to the issue of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides and should include internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the freedom of religion and of conscience of all inhabitants.

Draft resolution A/60/L.32, entitled "The Syrian Golan", recalls Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and expresses concern with regard to Israel's failure to comply with the provisions of the resolution. It also reaffirms the applicability of the Hague Convention of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and again calls upon Israel to withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, to resume discussions on both the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and to respect its commitments under previous agreements.

The time has come for the international community to undertake a comprehensive review of the situation in the Middle East. The peoples of the region aspire to stability, lasting peace and development. That can be achieved only with collective international will to give impetus to the resumption of direct peace negotiations on the basis of international law, including Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, and in accordance with the practical approach set out in the road map.

Ms. Davis (United Kingdom): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia

and Montenegro, Iceland, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this message.

The European Union remains committed to the two-State solution as laid out in the road map and agreed between the parties, which would result in a viable, contiguous, sovereign and independent Palestinian State existing side by side in peace with Israel and living within recognized and secure borders.

The European Union welcomed the successful conclusion of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the northern West Bank as a significant step towards implementing the road map. It praised the positive steps on both sides but emphasized that more remained to be done.

The European Union welcomes the Agreement on Movement and Access between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Those issues are fundamental to improving the humanitarian situation in Gaza and essential for promoting peaceful economic development. The Agreement signifies a major breakthrough. The priority now is to ensure that the commitments thus made are translated into reality.

The European Union welcomes the holding of multiparty elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council, foreseen for 25 January 2006. The European Union underlines that free and fair elections are an indispensable step in the process of consolidating democratic institutions. The European Union stands ready to assist the Palestinian Authority financially, technically and politically with the elections, in liaison with other members of the Quartet and the international community, to ensure that the electoral process is conducted in accordance with international principles for genuine democratic elections. To that end, the European Union is ready to send an observer mission. The European Union urges the Palestinian Authority to uphold all provisions of the electoral law. The Council urges Israel to cooperate fully with the Palestinian Authority in facilitating the preparation and conduct of the elections.

Finally, the European Union will work with Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the international community to contribute to realizing the aspirations of the Palestinian people and achieving a two-State solution, with both Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders. We wish to stress that both parties can count on the undiminished support of the European Union on the

path towards a durable, peaceful and just settlement of the conflict. We are convinced that that goal can be achieved for both Israelis and Palestinians. Moreover, we are convinced that it will contribute to peace in the region.

Mr. Mohd. Radzi (Malaysia): It is regrettable that the Middle East region continues to experience the damaging consequences of war, conflict and foreign occupation. Indeed, the situation in the region is at a delicate crossroads. The question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict remains at the core of the regional tensions and peace and security concerns in the Middle East.

The situation in the region has been compounded by the developments in Iraq and the disastrous threats posed by terrorists, as we have recently witnessed in Jordan. Israel's continued possession of a substantial arsenal of weapons of mass destruction — including nuclear weapons — constitutes another dangerous dimension to the instability in the region and threatens the future of all its peoples. Therefore, the establishment of the Middle East as a zone free of weapons of mass destruction must be pursued in earnest.

The current situation and stark realities in the region demand greater attention and support from the international community in order to assist countries in the region in pursuing the various initiatives toward achieving peace, security and stability. The Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 has clearly pronounced peace as an indisputable strategic option of the Arab States. It is testimony to their commitment to establish peace with Israel based on justice, the restoration of rights and good-neighbourly relations, rather than on continued aggression or the violation of their national sovereignty. The solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict continues to depend on ending the Israeli occupation of all Arab territories.

At this critical juncture, the international community, in particular the Quartet, must redouble their efforts and involvement in order to implement the road map and to create an environment that would guarantee the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. We must do all we possibly can and seek to ensure that the current momentum towards peace is maintained. It is incumbent on both Israel and Palestine to implement the road map, and it is equally incumbent

upon the Quartet to ensure that that objective is achieved without delay. We support the Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination and for the establishment of an independent and sovereign State on their national soil on the basis of the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, the principle of land for peace, the road map, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings.

My delegation hopes that the Palestinian Legislative Council elections on 25 January 2006 will be another milestone in Palestinian efforts to put their political life back on track. A successful outcome of the elections would enable the Palestinian leadership to carry the peace process forward. Hence, it will be in the interest of the occupying Power to introduce and implement all necessary measures to guarantee the achievement of that objective, including by removing the restrictions imposed in the occupied Palestinian territories to allow all Palestinian voters, including those in East Jerusalem, to participate in the elections. It is also the responsibility of the international community to assist the Palestinian Authority, as in the past, to conduct free and fair elections.

The lack of progress on the Israeli-Syrian front is of great concern to all of us. Israel's occupation of the Syrian Golan for more than 37 years remains a serious violation of international law, shows disrespect for the principle of the inadmissibility of the conquest of land by force and circumvents resolutions of international legitimacy and the peace process that began in Madrid in 1991.

Direct negotiations among the parties are indispensable in the pursuit of a final settlement of the conflict. Negotiations should be without preconditions and based on the terms of reference of the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. It is regrettable that Israel has, on several occasions, rejected serious offers presented by Syria for the resumption of negotiations. My delegation remains hopeful that Israel will respond positively to the offer by Syria in that regard. We remain firm in our conviction that peace between both sides can be achieved only through Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan.

My delegation welcomes the decision by the Syrian Arab Republic to allow the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission to

question its senior officials over the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. We have strongly condemned the assassination and reiterate our call for the perpetrators of that heinous act to be brought to justice. We are confident that Syria will fully cooperate with the Commission, as it has demonstrated, and that it will seek to resolve the issue in a diplomatic manner and avoid circumstances that could possibly destabilize both Syria and Lebanon. We are also confident that the Commission will endeavour to expedite its work with utmost impartiality and proceed directly to investigate all relevant aspects and interrogate all those concerned.

Given Malaysia's excellent relations with both Lebanon and Syria and our faith in the Organization, we are eager to discover the truth and look forward to the amicable closure of this issue as soon as possible. We urge all parties to allow the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission to conduct its work in accordance with its mandate and terms of reference.

The situation in Iraq has serious implications for international and regional peace and security. Restoring peace and security expeditiously in Iraq is critical. The Iraqi leadership has the right — and indeed the duty — to maintain law and order throughout its territory, to achieve the desired political stability and to restore normalcy in Iraq.

The security of Iraq must be the sole responsibility of an independent and sovereign Iraq. In that regard, there is a need for a comprehensive approach, which should incorporate security, governance, economic revitalization, justice and the rule of law in order to achieve true independence and democracy, peace and security. We hope that the new Iraqi Government, which will be formed following the elections on 15 December 2005, will be in a position to set the best course for Iraq and its people. There is also an urgent need for the Iraqi leadership to redouble its efforts — difficult as they may be — to prevail over all perpetrators of acts of violence in the country's territory, be they Iraqis or non-Iraqis, on the basis of applicable national and international law.

The United Nations has the best credentials to assist Iraq in its political process as well as to create the right conditions to enable Member States to take part in peacebuilding and reconstruction in Iraq. If the international community collectively succeeds in

helping Iraq to seize the moment, we will, at the same time, succeed in bringing to an end the bitter divisions caused by earlier actions related to this question. The war has been won, but we must make sure that we can win the peace. Let us work together to ensure that we do not disappoint the Iraqi people.

We must move forward and look at the Middle East in a comprehensive manner. The peoples of the region deserve permanent peace, stability and development, and we, the States Members of the Organization, must continue to offer our support. That can be accomplished by pursuing the vision of a definitive solution based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and the road map.

There is a glimmer of hope. We must work collectively to transform that glimmer into a bright shining light of peace, freedom and dignity for all affected peoples in the region. We call on those who have the most influence to work seriously towards the establishment of enduring peace and security in the Middle East. We urge Israel to act in its own best interests by looking beyond its immediate security needs — important as they may be — and by beginning in earnest to engage its Arab neighbours in serious and meaningful dialogue towards the early realization of a comprehensive peace.

Mr. Mansour (Palestine) (*spoke in Arabic*): The international community is in agreement that the question of Palestine lies at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that it has a direct and strong impact on the situation in the Middle East as a whole. In fact, the just resolution of the question of Palestine is the key to achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

However, the situation in the Middle East has other important aspects, which are sources of great concern to the international community. In the statement we made at the 57th meeting, held yesterday, under this agenda item, "Question of Palestine", our Minister for Foreign Affairs highlighted some of those issues. Therefore, I will not repeat the points that have already been articulated.

Today, I should like to highlight specific aspects of the question of Palestine. In our statement yesterday, we spoke about the catastrophic consequences of Israel's illegal policies and practices, particularly those

aimed at seizing and colonizing further Palestinian land through Israel's unlawful construction of the wall and the expansion of its network of illegal colonial settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem.

While those illegal policies and measures continue to harm the people and the land of Palestine, Israel's expansionist designs continue to have increasingly devastating consequences for East Jerusalem which is at the heart of the question of Palestine. At the same time, it holds central importance for the Arab region and for the Islamic and Christian worlds in general. Reaching reasonable solution to the question of Jerusalem that is based on international legitimacy is therefore a prerequisite for resolving the question of Palestine in all its aspects and for establishing peace and stability in the region as a whole.

Despite countless United Nations resolutions and repeated calls by the international community, the occupying Power has embarked on a crusade of relentless colonization in East Jerusalem. Since 1967, Israel has systematically sought to change the legal status, demographic composition and character of occupied East Jerusalem by implementing a comprehensive and integrated policy aimed at the artificial creation of a Jewish majority in the city through the confiscation of Palestinian land, the intensification of settlement construction, the transfer of settlers into the city and, most recently, the construction of the wall. At the same time, the policy has sought to decrease the presence of Palestinians in Jerusalem by making every aspect of life increasingly harsh for them in every way possible.

In essence, those dangerous measures carried out by the occupying Power will effectively isolate the city from the West Bank by encircling East Jerusalem with its illegal settlements and its unlawful wall, jeopardizing the possibility of territorial contiguity of the city with the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory and thereby undermining the Palestinian position in any future negotiations regarding East Jerusalem. It has become perfectly clear that, as the Israeli historian Mr. Tom Segev has stated, "what is happening today in Jerusalem goes beyond security needs and reflects the essence of the original Zionist dream: maximum territory, minimum Arabs."

It must be reiterated that all of the aforementioned actions by Israel have been committed in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Hague Regulations of 1907 and in blatant defiance of relevant Security Council resolutions. In 27 of those resolutions, the Security Council affirmed the applicability of the Convention to all the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, and repeatedly declared that all of the measures taken and arrangements made by Israel, aimed at changing the legal status of the city, are null and void and without any legal validity whatsoever. On its part, the Palestinian side has reaffirmed that it will not accept the annulment of Palestinian and Arab rights in East Jerusalem and, despite all illegal Israeli actions intended to create a *fait accompli* in the city, affirms the right of the Palestinian people to the independent State of Palestine.

On the issue of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, we continue to affirm the need to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. In that regard, Israel's insistence on possessing nuclear capabilities and its refusal to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency place the entire region in great danger. Its stance will undoubtedly lead to further complications in that sensitive area, including the possibility of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction of all types in the region. It must be reiterated that peace cannot be achieved through military might and will never flourish under the mentality of deterrence and military superiority.

It has always been our conviction that, in order to reach a solution to the decades of injustice and suffering experienced by the peoples of the Middle East, we must revert to the basics — a return to the rule of law and respect for human rights and international law. No country should be allowed to act, as Israel does, as if it were above the law. The international community must not allow Israel to continue to deny the rights of the Palestinian people and must compel it to comply with the principles set out in the United Nations Charter and international law. Absent that, peace and prosperity for all the peoples in the Middle East will continue to be but a distant hope.

Mr. Gillerman (Israel): Israel did not take part in yesterday's annual ritual of turning 29 November into a

Palestinian festival. We very much regret the fact that some of our neighbours have hijacked a date that marks a historic decision by this Assembly to which they themselves objected. We feel it is tragic that dwelling on a distorted past overshadows our hopes for a brighter future. It would be unforgivable if, for our neighbours, there were no present and no future — only the past happening over and over and over again.

Israel feels that the dramatic and positive developments on the ground — as only recently manifested by our disengagement from Gaza, the Rafah crossing agreement, and the upcoming Palestinian harvest — merit a fresh and bold look forward in hope rather than a bleak look back in anger, and feels that that reality should also be reflected in this Hall.

We call upon our neighbours, and especially the Palestinians, to join us in making the tough neighbourhood we live in a better place for our children and grandchildren. My delegation will make every effort to create a new atmosphere, which must also be reflected in this building and in this Hall, and calls upon our partners to work together with us to that end.

Mr. Hassan (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): This year, a number of interesting developments have reinvigorated the political process. We welcome Israel's withdrawal from settlements in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Israel and the Palestinians have also yet to honour some of the commitments they have undertaken under the road map and the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings. Israel must continue to withdraw from all the occupied Palestinian territories, beginning with a withdrawal to the borders of 28 September 2000, cease its settlement activities and halt construction of the separation wall, which has caused great harm to thousands of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The Palestinians must continue to take every possible step to preserve the calm and to prevent violence. We welcome the Palestinian Authority's commitment to containing violence and maintaining security and stability. We are especially gratified by the steps taken by Mr. Mahmoud Abbas to honour his commitment to pursuing reform within the Palestinian National Authority. We believe that the Palestinian commitment to reforming the Authority, and the security services in particular, should enjoy the support of the international community, and especially of the

Quartet, thus enabling the Palestinians to meet all their obligations at this important stage in the preparations for democratic elections.

The responsibility for halting violence is incumbent not on one party alone, but on both. We condemn the assassination of civilians, whoever they may be, and urge Israel to honour the ceasefire, to stop its attacks on Palestinians, to rescind restrictions on Palestinian movement, and to end all violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Palestinian people.

Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and from some settlements in the northern West Bank, in accordance with the road map, represents a genuine opportunity for activating the peace process. The agreement between the two parties on the border crossing with Egypt will contribute to the peace process. We hope that the two parties, with the Quartet's support and supervision, will reach agreement on all matters related to the withdrawal from Gaza in order to improve the living conditions of the Palestinians and the political situation. In spite of Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and the dismantling of some settlements in the northern West Bank, it is difficult to understand how the peace process can move forward as long as Israeli settlements remain, especially in areas critical to the final status negotiations, such as Jerusalem.

Carrying out a partial withdrawal while at the same time continuing to expand settlements elsewhere is a contradictory stance that will not solve the crisis nor contribute to finding a lasting peace between the two parties. Thus, Israel must quickly withdraw from the West Bank, as it did from the Gaza Strip, to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Israel's continued construction of the separation wall, in disregard of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, constitutes a flagrant violation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, in particular General Assembly resolution ES-10/15. The International Court of Justice's advisory opinion on the separation wall must be respected. The Court's advisory opinion determined that the Israeli settlements constitute a violation of international humanitarian law, that there is no legal basis for the wall's construction, that Israel should dismantle the completed sections of the wall and cease any further construction, that confiscated land should be returned to its former owners and that compensation should be paid to

persons harmed by the wall's construction. The Court's advisory opinion holds that the construction of the wall could create facts on the ground tantamount to the actual annexation of occupied Palestinian territory.

Arbitrary Israeli practices and the construction of the wall which have resulted in the deterioration of the situation in Palestinian territory and have had negative repercussions in the region, especially in Jordan, must cease. Stability and security cannot be achieved unless the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories is brought to an end, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003) the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, the Arab peace initiative, a negotiated settlement in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III), the fulfilment of all commitments, and consideration of the fact that the withdrawal from Gaza is part of the framework of the road map and the creation of two States.

Mr. Maurer (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): The major developments that have taken place over the past year make it possible to look to the future with prudent optimism. Aside from its political significance, the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and part of the northern West Bank demonstrates to a certain extent the capacity of the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to work together. The agreements that followed — the agreement with Egypt on border controls and the agreement reached two weeks ago on Rafah and other crossing points — are to be welcomed.

Looking beyond the removal of civil and military infrastructures in the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank, the real success of the disengagement will be measured by two crucial criteria.

The first is the stabilization of the Gaza Strip, which presents exceptional challenges with respect to human security. Public services there are no longer adequate given the increased demand of a constantly growing population. Unemployment and poverty rates are very high. And humanitarian aid needs remain considerable. We have a shared responsibility to work to improve the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, in particular by ensuring the access of goods and persons. We particularly appreciate the efforts of the Quartet and the personal engagement of its Special Envoy, Mr. James Wolfensohn, in that regard.

The second crucial factor is the relaunching of a genuine political process. All efforts made by the international community to stimulate economic and social recovery in the occupied Palestinian territory will be effective and lasting only if they are supported by a political process of the same scale. The only way to reach a solution to the conflict is through negotiation. The objective is the realization of, on the one hand, Israel's right to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders and, on the other, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of a viable Palestinian State. Solutions need to be found to the issues of borders, Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees. That will require both sides to make substantial concessions.

A peace proposal must have substantial popular support if it is to have a chance of success. Thus, civil society must be involved in the process, and public opinion must be prepared for peace. For the populations concerned to embark on that path, they must feel that there are real and tangible prospects for the improvement of their present situation. Fruitful negotiations require an atmosphere of hope and confidence, a clear political perspective and an absence of violence and arbitrary actions.

While awaiting the resumption of political dialogue, the two parties must respect and implement their respective obligations and commitments. First, they must respect international humanitarian law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention, and human rights law, which constitute the applicable legal framework. Of equal importance is the obligation to avoid taking measures that could prejudice the outcome of the final status negotiations.

The two parties have long known their respective obligations. Fulfilling those obligations is the only reasonable and essential option leading to the re-establishment of confidence and constructive dialogue. We call upon the international community, in particular the Quartet, to commit itself to implementation of the road map and the monitoring of compliance by the two parties.

Priority must be given to respect for, and the maintenance of, territorial unity between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Switzerland calls on the Israeli Government to freeze all settlement activities, which are a matter of great

concern. We observe with concern the division of the territory of the West Bank as a result of the construction of the barrier, continued settlement expansion and the increasing isolation of East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank. The creation of irreversible facts on the ground seriously undermines all chances of achieving a lasting, negotiated peace and can only lead to an exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis and the political, economic and social fragmentation of the Palestinian population.

Likewise, Switzerland calls on the Palestinian Authority to work with greater determination to dismantle terrorist infrastructures. The Palestinian Authority must also ensure the security of all its citizens. In addition, respect for human rights and the implementation of the principles of good governance should be among its priorities.

The only alternative to peace is further violence and destruction. The year 2006 will be critical for elections in Israel and in the occupied Palestinian territory. One can only hope for the emergence of a new trend favouring the resumption of the political process, leading to the attainment of the objective set by the entire international community: two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

Mr. Almansoor (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): Yesterday, 29 November 2005, marked the fifty-eighth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947. That date would eventually be observed as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Therefore, it is particularly painful to note that 38 years have passed since Israel first occupied Arab territories. Israel, the occupying Power, has steadfastly refused to comply with the collective will of the international community by withdrawing its military forces to its own territory and thus putting an end to its occupation of Arab territories.

Those years have been fraught with painful memories and distress for those who have suffered under Israeli occupation, particularly since they have passed without the attainment of the ultimate objective, peace. That is a major source of concern for those who aspire to the realization of a just peace, who feel desperate and who fear that their hopes and dreams might come to naught and that their noble efforts might not achieve the desired objective because of manoeuvring, prevarication, procrastination and failure

to abide by commitments under conventions, resolutions and other international instruments.

Undoubtedly, overcoming the current impasse in the peace process in the Middle East requires intensified and concerted international efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement that will enhance peace in the region through the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions — particularly Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), as well as other resolutions.

We believe that the road map might be the best way to attain the objectives of United Nations resolutions concerning the occupied Palestinian territories. Thus far, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/539), Israel has failed to carry out its basic obligations under the road map, including the freezing of all settlement activity, the immediate dismantling of settlement outposts and the ending of the construction of the separation wall. The Secretary-General believes that work on the wall is a unilateral act not in keeping with the road map and that it, along with continued Israeli settlement activity, constitutes a key challenge to the fulfilment of the road map's goal of a two-State solution.

Clearly, the two main obstacles to the peace process are the construction and continued extension of the wall, which run counter to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004. The opinion called for the dismantlement of the wall and for an end to the continued expansion of the settlements and to the construction of further settlements in the West Bank and in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan.

The Security Council has called those actions, the building and expansion of settlements, a policy and practice of Israel, and has condemned them repeatedly, particularly in its resolution 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, which stated that such actions have no legal validity and constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The Council has also strongly denounced Israel's failure to implement resolutions 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967, 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968 and 298 (1971) of 25 September 1971. Moreover, it has denounced Israel's failure to implement relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 2253 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2254 (ES-V) of 14 July

1967, 32/5 of 28 October 1977 and 33/113 of 18 December 1978.

It is regrettable that Israel, the occupying Power, has continued to implement its plans to change the character of the occupied Arab territories, in total disregard of international law, international humanitarian law and international conventions applicable to all occupied territories, such as the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the Hague Convention of 14 May 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

It was reported in document A/60/271 that Israel has embarked upon major changes in Jerusalem. Those changes, which can be described as radical, undermine the city's Arab character and strengthen its Jewish character. They totally contradict United Nations resolutions such as Security Council resolution 478 (1980), which declared all such legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel in Jerusalem to be null and void.

With regard to the occupied Syrian Golan, document A/60/65 states that the Israeli authorities have authorized the construction of nine new settlements and expanded 44 existing settlements. Such actions provide irrefutable proof that it is Israel's intention to entrench its occupation of the Syrian Golan and to refuse to implement relevant international resolutions, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, which considered Israel's decision to impose its laws, administration and jurisprudence on the occupied Syrian Golan to be null and void and without any legal validity whatsoever.

Not only the occupied Palestinian territories and the occupied Syrian Golan, but also the Shaba'a farms, are still under Israeli occupation.

In spite of the Middle East's vital historical, geographical and economic importance, it has not enjoyed stability for many decades, owing to the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories — an occupation that has depleted the resources, capacities and capabilities of the Arab States and their peoples. Stability will not return to the Middle East as long as the Israeli Government continues to adopt repressive policies and practices. Many years of such practices have led to the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories, harming the people of the region and giving rise to successive crises. Israel has resorted to excessive force

in order to impose security, to expand existing settlements and to build new ones in order to entrench its occupation and create a new fait accompli.

The Kingdom of Bahrain reiterates its full support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to attain their full, legitimate political rights, including the right to establish their own independent State with the holy city of Jerusalem as its capital. We demand that Israel implement its legal obligations in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003), the principle of land for peace and the road map.

We demand that Israel withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 and implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 497 (1981). Israel's continued occupation of the Syrian Golan represents a serious obstacle to the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and undermines international efforts to bring security to that vital region of the world.

We would also like to reiterate the importance of Israel's putting an end to its occupation of the remaining Lebanese territories, in accordance with resolution 425 (1978), to cease its targeting of Lebanese territories and to show respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon.

Mr. Al-Shamsi (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): Despite the fact that the era of colonization and foreign occupation has come to an end and that the age of the enforcement of international law and the principles of the Charter has begun, with peoples gaining their national independence and exercising their legitimate right to self-determination, the Middle East region remains the one region of the world where people suffer under Israeli occupation. Israel has continued to occupy Palestinian and Arab territories since 1967 and to pursue its illegal settlement schemes, which constitute a blatant violation of 40 Security Council and more than 600 General Assembly resolutions, adopted over the past 58 years.

We consider the international community's failure to end the illegal Israeli policies in the Arab territories for all these years to be the main reason that Israel has been able to continue to violate international law, including by confiscating land and natural resources and enforcing laws and regulations that impose its legal and administrative jurisdiction over Arab and

Palestinian territories, especially in Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan. Such measures, which have prevented indigenous Arab peoples from exercising their basic human rights, are aimed at changing the geographical and historical nature of those territories and replacing their Arab populations with Jewish settlers.

The United Arab Emirates has paid close attention to the reports of the Secretary-General, which contain important information clearly informing the international community about the dangerous policies carried out by the Israeli Government in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

We are concerned about Israel's confiscation of more than 78 per cent of historical Palestinian territories and its refusal to withdraw from the remaining Palestinian territories, in particular East Jerusalem, where people are prevented from living and travel restrictions are imposed. The United Arab Emirates is further alarmed by the fact that Israel has confiscated 96 per cent of the Syrian Golan Heights and undermined living conditions there by laying siege to its villages, destroying the infrastructure, uprooting trees, setting forests on fire, moving earth, burying chemical and nuclear waste and stealing water.

Israel is continuing to lay siege to the Syrian occupants of the Golan. It prevents them from visiting their land; it detains and forcibly arrests them; it deprives them of basic medical and educational services; it distorts all of the facts relating to the geography and history of the Golan, with a view to obliterating any sense of Arab national belonging. And it deprives Syrian children of their history, heritage, culture and homeland.

While we strongly condemn such illegal Israeli practices, which make clear Israel's true intentions of rejecting peace, we emphasize once again that the achievement of an immediate, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the establishment of security and stability in the region requires, now more than ever, effective and urgent international action in order to ensure the full and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. To that end, a number of steps must be taken.

First, a mechanism must be developed to monitor Israel's compliance with its legal obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, which is applicable to the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, and to ensure

that it abides by the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, issued on 7 July of last year, which called upon Israel to remove the separation wall that it has built in the West Bank and Jerusalem, as it is illegal and is having a harmful effect on the livelihoods of the Palestinian people and will prevent them from establishing an independent State.

Secondly, the international community must underline once again, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions 478 (1980) and 497 (1981), the illegality and the invalidity of all legal, administrative and judicial measures imposed by Israel on Jerusalem, as well as the transfer by some countries of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem and the alteration of the structural, demographic, and legal status of the occupied Golan.

Thirdly, the Quartet must be urged to take serious steps to secure Israel's commitment to resuming negotiations and its strict implementation of the road map's requirements, including the creation of a Palestinian State based on the 1967 borders according to a specific timetable. In that context, we stress the importance of expanding the road map process to include the Lebanese and Syrian peace tracks and the importance of ending all illegal activities carried out by Israel in those territories.

Fourthly, Israel must end its air, land and sea violations of Lebanese sovereignty and must cooperate by sharing all maps of the landmines that Israel planted in southern Lebanon before withdrawing. Israel must also respect the inalienable rights of Lebanon, including its right to adopt its own national decisions and its right to control its territorial waters in accordance with international law.

In conclusion, we affirm that the Arab-Israeli conflict can be settled, and security and stability can prevail in the region only through the restitution of all Arab territories and rights, in accordance with the road map, the terms of reference of the Madrid Peace Conference and the Arab peace initiative adopted at the Beirut summit.

Mr. Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): The Middle East region is witnessing important, radical developments and events aimed at altering the political, cultural and demographic character of the region and redrawing its borders. Some believe that those events better suit the region's new

functions and tasks in the service of the strategic interests of certain foreign forces, principally Israel.

With such feverish restructuring of the region that is contrary to the aspirations of the region's peoples and is based on concepts that must be denounced, such as the theory of constructive chaos, the Middle East is embarking on a new, grave stage of its history, characterized by insecurity, the spread of terrorism, destructive chaos and instability. That political environment has cast a long shadow over all aspects of life and has hindered the exploitation of the promising opportunities that had arisen. Instead, it has led to further complications and tension in a region that requires the intensive efforts of the international community, in particular the United Nations, in order to achieve a comprehensive and just peace and help the region achieve development and progress.

For centuries, the Middle East has been the region of the world most subjected to foreign threats, unjust attacks, assaults on the truth and the use of force against its peoples. All of that has prevented the peoples of the Middle East from realizing their aspirations for freedom and progress. Continued Israeli occupation of Palestine and the Syrian Golan since June of 1967 poses a flagrant challenge to international law. The occupation is in flagrant disregard of the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of land by force and flouts the resolutions of international legitimacy and the peace process begun at the 1991 Madrid Conference. That process has been rendered completely inoperative by successive Israeli Governments, especially the present one, which rejects the framework for peace and pursues its policies of killing, assassinations, State-sponsored terrorism and destruction. Israeli aggression and the occupation of Arab territories threatens peace and security not only in the Middle East but also in the entire world.

Since its occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan in 1967, Israel has used all means at its disposal to change the status of the land and the character of its people, including their sense of belonging. It has used force to expel the inhabitants from their land and from their towns, villages and farms. It has used all means available to found settlements, bringing settlers from all over the world, to the detriment of the inhabitants of the Syrian Golan, who have been deprived of their basic freedoms and their human rights.

Since 1967, some 500,000 Syrians have been forcefully expelled from their villages and cities by Israel. All women, children and elderly people who have been expelled look forward to the day when their land is liberated and they can return to their villages and towns and exercise their rights under international law and United Nations resolutions. Israel is mistaken if it believes that the settlers, the settlements and its annexation laws can ensure Israel's complete control over the Golan. Israel knows very well that, sooner or later, it will have to remove those settlers and demolish the settlements.

Israel has also attempted to annex the Golan and impose its laws and its legal and administrative jurisdiction on that territory. It has practised every form of racial discrimination and exerted pressure and intimidation in order to impose its Israeli identity on the population. In spite of the rejection by the international community and the Security Council of the annexation and the judgement of the international community that such an annexation is null and void and has no legal validity, in accordance with Security Council resolution 497 (1981), Israel still refuses to comply with this resolution and continues its occupation of the Golan, in violation of the rights of the area's inhabitants and in total disregard of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In this regard and in violation of its legal obligations under international law, Israel has, over the years, built 44 settlements in the Golan and seeks to increase the number of settlers located there to 150,000 within the next two years. Thus, Israel's talk about peace is meant to deceive the international community; it constitutes a challenge to and distortion of the will and the resolutions of the international community.

The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories has prepared a list of the violations committed by an undeterred Israel in the Syrian Golan, including Israel's ongoing detention and imprisonment of numerous Arab Syrian citizens. The list also includes Israel's burial of nuclear waste in the Golan, its control of the Golan's water resources and its denial of those water resources to Syrian Arab citizens.

Israel, the occupying Power, imposes unjust taxes on the Syrian Arabs and charges very high fees for care at medical centres in the Golan. The Israeli army's emplacement of numerous landmines near many Syrian villages and towns has caused great suffering among Syrians in the occupied Golan. These mines are responsible for a large number of deaths, injuries and permanent disabilities.

This is all well known to international public opinion. We call for immediate intervention to put an end to this murderous Israeli mine machine. As proof of Israel's violations of the most basic human rights, I should like to note the statement made a few days ago by the families of Syrian Arab prisoners and detainees from the occupied Golan. In this statement, they called upon international public opinion and on all human rights and international legal organizations to work seriously and tirelessly to put an end to all of these Israeli violations against the population.

The statement recalled that more than 21 years had passed since a number of young people from the Golan were detained without being charged with any crime except that of defending the dignity and the freedom of their people. It also noted intentional medical negligence and failure by the Israeli authorities to provide necessary medical care and nourishment, as well as the commission of violations against detainees, such as beatings, repression and deprivation of books and visits. The statement also refers to a grave deterioration in the health of Sitan Nimr al-Wali and Sidqi Suleiman al-Maqt and his brother, Bishr Suleiman al-Maqt, as well as Cassim Muhammad al-Wali and the prisoner We'am Mahmoud 'Ammasha. It provides information testifying to the fact that the martyr Hayil Abu Zeid died of cancer while in Israeli detention.

Israel's possession of a huge arsenal of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons represents yet another immense threat to the Middle East. These weapons constitute another element of instability in the Middle East and a threat to the future of its peoples. At a time when all countries of the region without exception have acceded to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Israel remains alone in not having joined that agreement.

On the other hand, Syria and all other brotherly Arab countries were among the first to call for declaring the Middle East a zone free of weapons of

mass destruction, and we have worked hard for the realization of that objective, including through the submission of a draft resolution to the Security Council in late 2003. Regrettably, the Security Council, for reasons that are well known, has to date been unable to adopt the draft resolution — in spite of all the hullabaloo we hear about the need to put an end to peaceful nuclear programmes conducted by other parties. Why should Israel be the exception?

Syria has repeatedly declared its full commitment to a just and comprehensive peace. It has always demanded Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territory occupied since 1967. It has demanded that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people be guaranteed, including its right to build its own independent State on its own land, with Jerusalem as its capital, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative. It has also demanded Israel's withdrawal from the Lebanese Sheba'a farms.

Syria would like to reiterate that General Assembly agenda items relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict are and will continue to be no less valid than ever. We do not accept the logic, promoted by a few, according to which these items should be reviewed and some of them dropped, particularly since Israel continues to occupy Arab territories. The problem is not with United Nations resolutions, but rather with Israel's refusal to implement them, because it is not being pressured to do so. As long as Israel refuses to resume the peace talks within the framework of the Middle East peace process, we believe that no such review should take place. It is the duty of all States to pressure Israel to put an end to its occupation of Arab territories and to halt its practices that are condemned by the United Nations, rather than calling, most regrettably, for the deletion of items regarding the question of Palestine and the Middle East.

Syria's position has always been characterized by firmness, credibility and a commitment to peace and its framework. We look to the Member States of the United Nations to show real support and to respond to the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions in a way that leads to a full Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese Sheba'a farms, the Golan and the occupied Palestinian territories to the line of 4 June 1967. While we renew our commitment to international legitimacy and its resolutions, we call for the implementation of all resolutions, without

discrimination or selectivity among the parties. Scores of resolutions have been adopted by the Security Council, they should all be implemented in accordance with Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations.

It is worth mentioning that when the United Nations or the international community are mentioned, many Arab citizens wonder why some resolutions are implemented and others are not. That is indeed the question.

Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*). I should like to preface my statement by saying how delighted my delegation is to have this opportunity, through our consideration of this agenda item, to examine the situation in the Middle East, that seething cauldron which, every day, makes one fear the worst. Because it poses a real threat to international peace and security, the question of the Middle East deserves special attention. It is more than a mere concern. It is, above all, a responsibility incumbent upon the entire international community. The constant image we have of this part of the world is that of a region beset by violence, destitution and a constant lack of security.

Thus, in Iraq, foreign occupation has merely exacerbated the dire situation and lack of security. The establishment of a Government of national unity following the pluralist elections of last January and the trial of former Baath Party leaders will certainly not restore confidence there any time soon. Proof of this is the upsurge in acts of violence, sometimes barbaric in nature, which could long doom this country to instability, the consequences of which could be catastrophic for the entire region.

On this question, Burkina Faso believes that there is a need to speed up the assumption of power by the Iraqis themselves, and a need once again to place the United Nations at the centre of any initiative that would support the peacebuilding actions of the Government. Furthermore, we assert the Iraqi people's right to have exclusive control over their natural resources.

The outlook is similar with regard to other countries in the Middle East. In Lebanon, despite the withdrawal of Syrian troops and the organization of free and transparent elections facilitating the establishment of a new Government, the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was a stark demonstration to the world that that country is not yet close to emerging from this period of turbulence.

Burkina Faso welcomes the establishment of the International Independent Investigation Commission authorized by the Security Council, and hopes that this murky business will be thoroughly clarified.

Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt have not been spared either, having experienced a wave of attacks. That is why we believe it important to encourage any initiative or solution that might address the situation, such as the recent consultations organized by Egypt, which my country sincerely welcomes. Clearly, given this climate of ongoing tension, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has also been affected, and has indeed given rise to acts of violence in the Middle East.

In the West Bank, Palestinians are continuing to suffer as a result of serious violations of their inalienable rights leading to the massive displacement of the population and the establishment of numerous refugee camps in the occupied territories and in neighbouring countries. Likewise, we cannot ignore the arbitrary arrests, the targeted assassinations of Palestinian leaders and, of course, the building — notwithstanding the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice — of the separation wall.

The death of President Yasser Arafat left a great vacuum. Fortunately, it was soon filled by his worthy successor, Mahmoud Abbas, as head of the Palestinian Authority. At his prompting, positive initiatives have been taken, in particular the suspension of the intifada and robust action against acts of terrorism, which have definitely helped to establish the beginnings of a direct dialogue with Israel.

There can be no doubt that the new sense of calm prompted the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and the dismantlement of Jewish settlements. The Government of Burkina Faso welcomes that withdrawal, which shows that there is still hope. We call upon the belligerent parties to work further to defuse the situation.

For my country, working to defuse the situation will require constructive dialogue between the parties on the basis of the relevant Security Council resolutions — resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). We urge them to commit firmly and without further ado to that approach, even if, unfortunately, we have to admit that the many efforts made by the international community, embodied in specific proposals such as the road map, have not always produced the hoped-for results.

It goes without saying that Burkina Faso unreservedly supports Security Council resolution 1397 (2002), which advocates the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, living side by side with Israel within secure, internationally recognized borders.

Accordingly, we welcome the statement made by the Prime Minister of Israel in this Hall on the occasion of the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations (*see A/60/PV.5*), in which he clearly recognized that Palestinians have the right to a free, independent State.

The appeal made by the Quartet, meeting in September on the margins of the world summit, must be heeded by both belligerent parties so that the negotiating process can be relaunched with a view to implementing the road map. This opportunity must be seized. It is time for the protagonists to see reason and bury the hatchet once and for all so that both the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples — whose future is truly at stake — may finally coexist in peace and security.

Mrs. Juul (Norway): The world is witnessing important developments in the Middle East. We were encouraged by the way the Israeli Government showed great courage in implementing the withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank this summer. We were also impressed by the dignified manner in which the evacuation was carried out by the Israel Defense Forces. The Israeli withdrawal was an important step towards ending the Israeli occupation and establishing a two-State solution, in accordance with the road map for peace and relevant United Nations resolutions.

We were also encouraged by the recent agreement on the Rafah border crossing between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority. The agreement has both political and practical significance. It will enable the parties to maintain the important political momentum that followed in the wake of the Gaza disengagement, and, as a confidence-building measure, it may prove conducive to an improved atmosphere of dialogue and cooperation that could further induce the parties to implement their commitments as set out in the road map. The agreement will also have positive practical implications for Palestinians, as it will enable them to travel freely and will open up trade across the border. A stable and thriving Gaza is important in order to

bolster the Palestinian Authority's legitimacy and reduce extremism.

However, improving the situation in Gaza is just one of the many steps that are required in order to bring about positive developments that will ultimately lead to peace. The next challenge is to address the situation in the West Bank. The single most important thing that can be done to normalize the situation for Palestinians is to fundamentally change or abolish the closure regime. Norway therefore urges Israel to lift closures and allow free movement.

While Norway recognizes Israel's security concerns, we cannot accept the construction of the separation barrier on occupied land in the West Bank. Nor can we accept the continued construction activities in the Israeli settlements. The building of the barrier, the expansion of settlements and the construction of separate roads exclusively for the settlements are in conflict with international law and create facts on the ground that are detrimental to a contiguous and viable Palestinian State and, thus, to a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The Palestinian Authority bears a major responsibility for achieving positive political and economic development. The Palestinian Authority has achieved important results in its reform process. We encourage it to continue those reforms, particularly within the police and security sectors. Terrorism is unacceptable anywhere, at any time. The Palestinian leadership must make a strategic decision to fight terrorism, in accordance with the road map.

Norway welcomes the Palestinian elections due to take place in January. Those elections will be an important step in the consolidation of the Palestinian Authority and will strengthen the foundations for continuing the reform process. We urge the Israeli Government to take the necessary steps to contribute to the success of the elections.

Those recent developments are important steps forward in the Middle East peace process. There is no need for a new peace plan. The road map sets out all the steps necessary for restarting the process. Efforts must be made by all parties, including the international community, to seize the present opportunities and sustain the political momentum in order to foster further progress in the peace process.

Our goal is two viable States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. At this critical juncture we must join forces and do our utmost to make that vision come true.

Mr. Assaf (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his two reports on the situation in the Middle East (A/60/258 and A/60/539) and for his efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict arising from the occupation of Arab territories.

Israel has been occupying the Palestinian territories since 1967. It has separated and isolated various parts of the occupied territories, killed Palestinians, jailed them, and denied them their inalienable rights, such as the right to self-determination, political independence and the right of refugees to return. Israel continues to build the separation wall, in violation of the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which held the wall's construction to be illegal and urged Israel to dismantle it and compensate Palestinians for damages incurred.

In Syria, Israel continues to occupy approximately 1,000 square kilometres of the Golan and refuses to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders. About half a million inhabitants of the Golan have been displaced. Forty-four Israeli settlements have been built, in which some 20,000 Israeli settlers now live. And now there are plans to increase the number of settlements. Israel continues to take arbitrary measures against the approximately 25,000 remaining Arab inhabitants of the Golan. Their lands are being broken up, and they are forced to take Israeli citizenship. Israel has not complied with resolution 497 (1981), which declared that the 1981 annexation of the Golan was null and void.

There are many cases of Israeli aggression in Lebanon. Israel continues to violate Lebanese sovereignty, by land, sea and air, in violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which calls upon Israel to respect Lebanese sovereignty. There were 83 Israeli violations in the past month alone. Israeli military aircraft routinely — on an almost daily basis — violate Lebanese airspace and break the sound barrier above cities, thus terrorizing civilians and foreign tourists.

The Secretariat of the United Nations presented its assessment of events on the ground in its briefing

this morning to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, in which it listed 12 Israeli violations of Lebanon's airspace since the 21st of this month, and called on Israel to put an end to those violations, because such a course of action would help restore a degree of calm along the Blue Line.

Israel has still not released all its Lebanese prisoners. While we thank the German Government for its initiatives to achieve the liberation of a number of Lebanese prisoners, we once again invite the international community to make every possible effort to resolve that issue once and for all by ensuring the liberation of all Lebanese prisoners held in Israel.

In addition, Israel has still not provided 20 per cent of the maps of the mine fields in Lebanon, landmines that number around 400,000. Those landmines have caused the death of scores of Lebanese citizens and injured hundreds more. The situation prevents people from returning to their farmlands and planting crops.

We cannot fail to mention the question of the approximately 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The Lebanese Government, in close coordination with the legitimate Palestinian Authority, has taken a series of measures to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian refugees by providing services with respect to the Lebanese labour markets on the one hand, and by organizing and regulating their security situation, on the other.

We would like to reiterate Lebanon's position. Palestinian refugees must be able to return home, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III). They should not be settled permanently in Lebanon, first, because they wish to return home and, secondly, because Lebanon's constitution rejects the option of permanent settlement in Lebanon. Furthermore, the settlement of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon would alter Lebanon's demographic balance.

A solution to the Middle East crisis must be based on Israel's compliance with the international community's call for its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). All Arab States that participated in the 2002 Beirut Summit endorsed the Arab peace initiative that offered Israel peace, recognition of the State of Israel and the normalization of relations with it, in exchange for Israel's withdrawal

from the occupied Arab territories and the return of refugees. We still hope that our appeal will be accepted by Israel. Achieving peace is easy if the political will exists.

Finally, I cannot conclude my statement on the Middle East without thanking the United Nations for responding to Lebanon's appeal for help in the investigation of the assassination of the late Prime Minister, Mr. Rafik Hariri. We reaffirm our support for and trust in the Independent Investigation Commission and its head, and we express our confidence in its work. We ask all States to cooperate in a serious and sincere manner with the Commission, in conformity with Security Council resolutions 1595 (2005) and 1636 (2005).

Mr. Southcott (Australia): Last year when Australia spoke under this agenda item, we had some grave concerns about the situation in the Middle East, and our prognosis was bleak. One year later, we have seen some significant changes, and, while much remains that is of concern, we nevertheless feel there is cause for at least guarded optimism. After a long period of stagnation on negotiations and a vicious spiral of violence, some heartening steps have been made on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process — including Israel's remarkable withdrawal from Gaza. Although the Middle East continues to experience the evils of terrorism, we have been encouraged by the spirit of cooperation that has underscored the international community's efforts to eradicate that scourge.

The Australian Government has been a steadfast supporter of the spread of democracy, including in the Middle East. We believe that democracy will not only bring greater freedom to the peoples of the Middle East but also encourage a more stable and secure environment, which will, in turn, achieve the sense of security that has been so sorely lacking.

Australia believes that the sceptics who say that democracy is a Western concept that will never take root in the Middle East are wrong. Democracy is a liberating concept that has equal relevance and application to all of the peoples of the world. Not limited by geography, culture or faith, the merits and appeal of democracy are truly universal. We have seen that when looking at the situation of the Iraqi people and the way that after decades of living under a brutal regime they have eagerly embraced the opportunity to

determine their Government and shape their own future. We have also seen it this year in Lebanon, where democratic elections have taken place free from outside interference, symbolizing new-found freedom and national unity.

Those examples do not by any means exhaust the list of promising democratic developments in the region. No one should underestimate the challenges that lie ahead for the region. But the dynamics are more promising than we have seen for some time.

The establishment of a Palestinian State living in peace, security and prosperity alongside Israel remains the paramount goal of the Middle East peace process, and we were buoyed by progress made towards that objective in 2005.

Australia commended Egypt's hosting of the February summit in Sharm el-Sheih, which promoted agreement between President Abbas and Prime Minister Sharon to formally end more than four years of bloodshed. While significant in its own right, that agreement also helped pave the way for Israel's historic withdrawal from Gaza.

Australia recognized and applauded the courage and commitment shown by Prime Minister Sharon in successfully achieving Israel's disengagement from Gaza. Disengagement should bring renewed hope and an invigorated momentum to the road map to Middle East peace, and we urge both parties not to pass up this opportunity to give further impetus to the peace process.

While significant steps have indeed been taken this year and while we remain optimistic about the chances for lasting peace, we recognize the major challenges that remain. A commitment by the Palestinians to stop terrorism and incitement to further bloodshed, and by Israel to address the issue of settlements, remains pivotal.

It is incumbent on us all to help the parties to the dispute to seize the opportunities now at hand. Australia will continue to support practical measures to push the peace process forward. The secondment in 2005 of an Australian Defence Force officer to the international security sector working group, which is working with Israel and the Palestinian Authority, is just one example of the tangible contribution that we have made. We also continue to provide practical

support to the Palestinian people through our aid programme.

Iraq has come a long way since Australia spoke last year. We saw many brave Iraqis turn out to vote for a new Government on 30 January and, again, for a new constitution on 15 October. We congratulate the brave Iraqi people and wish them all the best as they prepare to vote again for a permanent Government on 15 December. Throughout the year, we have seen all sides of Iraqi politics and society begin to engage in the political process. In that, the Iraqi people have clearly demonstrated that they have chosen freedom and democracy over the dark tyranny of terrorism. That brave choice deserves all of our support, and we encourage the international community to redouble its efforts in support of Iraq and its people as they seek to create freedom and prosperity.

Iraq's neighbours have a particular role to play in stopping the flow to Iraq of terrorists and the arms and funds that would support terrorists. For its part, Australia will not falter in its commitment to Iraq as it journeys towards a stable democracy governed by the rule of law.

As a member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Australia has worked and will continue to work constructively in support of international efforts to resolve the many outstanding questions about Iran's nuclear activities and to obtain credible assurances from Iran that its nuclear activities are for exclusively peaceful purposes.

In keeping with the concerns expressed by Secretary-General Annan in late October, Australia registered strong condemnation of Iranian President Ahmadinejad's comments calling for Israel to be wiped off the map. Such extremist views are totally unacceptable and do nothing to reassure the international community that Iran is prepared to be a responsible international citizen.

The situation in the Middle East today remains a major challenge for us all. Now is the time for the international community and the United Nations to work together and to encourage those measures which encourage stability and security for the Middle East and which will help build a better future for all of its peoples.

Mr. Ilkin (Turkey): Turkey has aligned itself with the statements made by the representative of the

United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union under agenda items 14 and 15, entitled, respectively, "The situation in the Middle East" and the "Question of Palestine". I would like to elaborate on a number of issues which we deem important at this critical juncture.

The withdrawal of Israel from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank is indeed an encouraging development in the region. The recent agreement between the parties on the Rafah border crossing in the Gaza Strip is also an important achievement, thus strengthening expectations that a constructive environment will take hold in the region. Prospects for the resumption of the peace process within the framework of the road map have now emerged. In this context, we would like to praise the Quartet Special Envoy, Mr. James Wolfensohn, for his tireless efforts in devising a crucial reconstruction plan for the revival of the Palestinian economy.

It is our deeply held conviction that, for the attainment of long-awaited peace, security, social and economic development and progress in the Middle East, the settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is essential.

The international community and, in particular, the Quartet have a crucial role to play to get the derailed peace process back on track. We must assist the two sides to seize the current opportunity for a genuine political dialogue under the road map. In that process, both parties have to stand firm against provocation by extreme elements trying to undermine the gradual, yet momentous, gains made so far. The Palestinians must carry on with their reform process, paying special attention to the rehabilitation of the security sector. Here, Israel must help in sustaining a positive atmosphere and consolidating efforts for reform.

The Gaza initiative must be followed by similar steps in the West Bank. Israeli settlement activities must come to an end. The construction of the wall should be halted. The parties must refrain from unilateral moves that might prejudice a final-status agreement. The relevant Security Council resolutions, the principle of land for peace and bilateral understandings constitute the pillars of a negotiated, just, comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the conflict in the Middle East. In that framework, we believe that it is high time for the realization of the

vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, within recognized borders.

With that understanding, Turkey has been providing the Palestinian Authority with assistance in health, education, public financing, institution-building, security, tourism and agriculture under an action plan initiated in 2003. The Ramallah office of the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency became operational several months ago. We also help to promote civil society and private sector contacts to strengthen the dialogue between the two parties. Through the efforts of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, a triangular process among the Israeli, Palestinian and Turkish business communities has been institutionalized as the Ankara Forum.

The President took the Chair.

Turkey also supports all international efforts to resolve the Middle East issue. We maintain close contacts with all sides and try to create synergy on the ground in order to further promote dialogue and cooperation. In the context of the broader picture, the international community should always bear in mind the potential impact of other tracks on the much desired and long awaited environment of lasting peace and security in the Middle East.

The Syrian and Lebanese tracks need to be reactivated so that a peaceful, stable and prosperous environment for all the peoples of the Middle East can be achieved. For its part, Turkey stands ready to work with the international community to contribute to the resumption of tangible progress on all tracks of the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Konuzin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): In the course of the year since our last discussion on the subject of a Palestinian-Israeli settlement, at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, significant changes have occurred in the Middle East peace process. We have experienced many anxious moments when it seemed that the fragile understanding between the parties had been hopelessly destroyed. Mutual distrust by the Israelis and the Palestinians; their guarded attitude towards each other; the attacks by extremists; all of that called into question the prospect of a settlement.

In our view, however, there were more positive events. The year 2005 was marked by a major, historic

event, Israel's withdrawal from northern Gaza and from part of the West Bank. The fact that the disengagement plan became a reality is to the credit of the Government of Israel and a result of the responsible position adopted by the Palestinian Authority. But the liberation of that Palestinian territory, occupied in 1967, should be followed by further steps, with a view to a final settlement on the basis of the road map — irreplaceable, fundamental document which defines the parameters of Palestinian-Israeli reconciliation.

The Government of Mr. Abbas must be helped in its efforts to create security and order in the Palestinian territories. We are convinced that the Palestinian leadership should continue its efforts to reform its power structures, and firmly counter any manifestations of terrorism.

It is essential to improve the humanitarian, social and economic situation of the population in the Palestinian territories. Accordingly, we welcome the agreement on movement and access that was concluded on 15 November between Israel and the Palestinians, and we call upon the parties to strictly comply with and implement it. The international community — as represented by the Quartet and its Special Envoy, Mr. Wolfensohn — should continue to focus its attention on all of those tasks.

Together with other members of the Quartet of Middle East facilitators, Russia intends to help build Palestinian statehood. At the same time, I wish to emphasize that we deem inadmissible any kind of unilateral measures that would prejudice the solution to the question of the final status of Palestinian lands. Israeli settlement activity in all its manifestations is unacceptable to us, as is the continuing construction of the separation wall.

It is very important now to allow the positive momentum resulting from the evacuation of the Israeli settlements in Gaza to fade away. Therefore, the international facilitators and all interested parties should urge Israel and the Palestinians to ensure that the interaction that emerged with the withdrawal from Gaza continues in the post-evacuation period as well.

We must all keep in mind the final goal: the creation of an independent, viable Palestinian State coexisting in peace and security with Israel. However, we cannot fail to note that the settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict alone, without a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, will not

make it possible to eliminate tension and achieve peace and security in the region. Therefore, the international community must again devote constant attention to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace process, as they are just as significant and important.

Ms. García-Matos (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela rejects intervention upon and violation of the territorial integrity of any State. The Republic believes that there is no excuse for a State to invade or occupy another.

That is why we support the series of General Assembly resolutions that, year after year, have condemned Israel's occupation of the Syrian Golan since 1967 and called for the withdrawal of the occupation forces. The Republic vigorously rejects the ongoing occupation of the Syrian Golan and urges the Government of Israel to withdraw its forces. Ours is a position of principle, based on our Constitution.

We also believe that, in order to maintain international peace, relations among States must be based on strict respect for sovereignty and the general norms and principles of international law, in particular the principle of territorial integrity.

We also welcome the willingness of the Syrian Government, and in particular of President Bashar Al-Assad, to resume negotiations on the basis of the 1991 Madrid peace process. In that respect, we urge the Government of Israel to resume negotiations and to withdraw completely from the entire occupied Syrian Golan to the lines of 4 June 1967.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela also wishes to highlight its support for the draft resolution entitled "Jerusalem" and to join its voice to the hundreds of millions of voices around the world urging Israel to end the occupation of the Arab territories begun in 1967, including Jerusalem. Any measure taken by Israel in any occupied Arab territory is null and void, as recognized by international norms. The United Nations must continue to work to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and to adopt measures to reverse the situation of the heroic and long-suffering Palestinian people.

That is why we urge delegations to vote in favour of the draft resolutions on the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine. Any conduct that runs counter to the United Nations Charter, such as the

annexation of territories, must always be repudiated by the international community as a whole.

Mr. Sardenberg (Brazil) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the delegations of Argentina and Brazil on agenda item 14, "The situation in the Middle East".

In the year that has elapsed since the last debate of the General Assembly on that issue, several positive developments have taken place in the Middle East. Noteworthy among them are the Palestinian presidential elections of 9 January 2005; the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings of 8 February; Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and four settlements of the West Bank, which was concluded by mid-September; and the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing signed on 15 November, which made possible the reopening of that strategic crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt a few days ago.

Argentina and Brazil welcome those auspicious and positive developments, which allow us to entertain a degree of optimism about future prospects. However, as has been repeatedly demonstrated over the past year, the progress towards peace and mutual recognition is negatively affected by the ups and downs of the fragile situation on the ground and the forces of moderation have not always prevailed over those of extremism and violence.

We therefore consider it essential that the progress be accompanied by concrete measures that contribute to building more confidence between the parties, establishing channels of dialogue between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority on all aspects of the road map, and ultimately relaunching the peace process.

We believe that the road map is the best tool at our disposal to advance peace negotiations with a view to the creation of an independent, sovereign, democratic, viable and territorially contiguous State of Palestine living side by side with Israel in peace and security. To achieve that goal, both parties must be ready to make concessions and accept long-term commitments that respond to the fundamental needs and concerns of the other party.

In that regard, the Palestinian Authority should take measures to address Israel's legitimate security needs. It should therefore continue with the reform and

strengthening of its security services and exercise its monopoly over the use of force in the territory under its control.

Argentina and Brazil believe that it is essential to ensure the safety and well-being of all civilians in the Middle East. We condemn all acts of violence and terror against civilians on both sides, including suicide bombings, extrajudicial executions and the excessive use of force.

The parties must understand that the conflict will be solved only through peaceful means and that resort to violence will not contribute to the achievement of their objectives. In the final analysis, the main lesson learned over the past five years has been that violence and terrorism have diminished the prospects for peaceful coexistence between two States and have not enhanced them.

Israel should adequately address the legitimate Palestinian aspirations to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State. To that end, it should freeze all settlement-related activities and dismantle illegal outposts in accordance with the road map. Similarly, it should cease the construction of the separation barrier and adjust its route so as not to create facts on the ground that could prejudice the final borders.

The living conditions in the Palestinian territories should visibly improve and in that regard it is essential to guarantee the freedom of movement of people and goods within Gaza and the West Bank and between both territories, and to facilitate links with the rest of the world. If concrete measures are not taken to respond to those legitimate Palestinian concerns, it will be very difficult for the President of the Palestinian Authority to convince his people that peaceful negotiations with Israel will indeed lead to the creation of a viable and contiguous State.

The international community has an important role to play in the process, especially in establishing conditions for a fruitful and sustainable dialogue between the parties. Some recent experiences, in particular the Gaza withdrawal and the opening of the Gaza crossing, have shown that the active involvement of the members of the Quartet and other relevant international actors can make a difference when the parties by themselves seem unable to reach an agreement. However, the international community cannot impose a resumption of negotiations; Israelis

and Palestinians must take the required bold steps in order to comply with their mutual commitments and obligations.

Peace and stability in the Middle East is dependent on the achievement of concrete progress with regard not only to the Israeli-Palestinian track but also to other aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is therefore indispensable that the parties resume their contacts with a view to putting an end to the situations of occupation that continue to exist in the region, in violation of international law.

We call once again for the resumption of peace talks between Israel and Syria concerning the Golan Heights, occupied since June 1967.

With respect to the situation in southern Lebanon, we reiterate our call on the parties fully to respect the Blue Line and to refrain from taking any measures that could increase tensions in the area. The events of 21 November were extremely serious and underline once again the fact that all actors involved must abide by the provisions of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

We would like to take this opportunity to restate our position on the status of Jerusalem. A definitive solution to that question must take into account the legitimate concerns of both Israelis and Palestinians. In that context, we would voice our concern at the unilateral measures taken by Israel in the outskirts of Jerusalem, especially with respect to settlement activities and the construction of the separation wall. Such measures increase the isolation of the city from the remaining occupied territories, have a detrimental effect on the lives of the Palestinian people and could prejudice a definitive agreement on the status of the city.

In conclusion, I should like to express our recognition for the role being played by the United Nations in the quest for a solution to the various issues relating to peace in the Middle East. We value the deployment of United Nations agencies on the ground so as to mitigate the suffering of the Palestinian people. We also believe that the Organization and its main bodies, in particular the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretariat, must play an important role in promoting the peace process in the Middle East.

Argentina and Brazil will continue to support all international efforts aimed at promoting the legitimate

aspirations of all the peoples in the region and at translating into reality the vision of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003); the Madrid terms of reference; the principle of land for peace; and the statement issued by the Arab League at the Beirut summit in 2002.

Mr. Djacta (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): I wish to add the name of my country to the list of sponsors of the two draft resolutions introduced by Egypt, A/60/L.32 and A/60/L.33, on the Middle East.

The President: The statement by the representative of Algeria is duly noted.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.



General Assembly

Sixtieth session

60th plenary meeting

Thursday, 1 December 2005, 10 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Eliasson (Sweden)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Hamidon (Malaysia), Vice-President, took the Chair

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 15 (continued)

Question of Palestine

Draft resolutions (A/60/L.28, A/60/L.29, A/60/L.30 and A/60/L.31)

The Acting President: Members will recall that the General Assembly held the debate on this item at its 57th through 59th plenary meetings, on 29 and 30 November 2005.

Mr. Thomson (United Kingdom): I would like to make a few additional comments on this item on behalf of the European Union (EU) and a number of countries that align themselves with this statement: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.

The European Union welcomes the recent positive developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the northern West Bank, the Agreement on Movement and Access and the subsequent opening of the Rafah border on 25 November 2005, and the forthcoming multiparty elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council foreseen for 25 January 2006 all represent

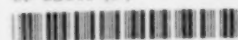
significant steps towards implementation of the road map. While recognizing that more remains to be done, the European Union believes that such developments should be taken into account when considering the role of existing United Nations structures.

Equally, the European Union has consistently supported the objective of streamlining in the General Assembly as part of the overall process of revitalization of the Assembly. In that respect, the European Union was pleased that in the Third Committee this year, the Palestinian observer delegation was willing to withdraw its resolution on Palestinian children incorporating relevant elements into another existing resolution.

The European Union also supports the updating and re-examination of existing United Nations structures, such as the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to better take into account political developments and realities on the ground. The EU looks forward to further discussions on this issue. The European Union has, in the past, had some reservations about the terms of reference of that United Nations body, as it felt that it does not sufficiently reflect the spirit of the peace process. Nevertheless, since the EU now has two Member States that have historically held a different view, our voting pattern will respect that position and reflect it accordingly.

The EU remains committed to the two-State solution as laid out in the road map and agreed between the parties, which would result in a viable,

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contiguous, sovereign and independent Palestinian State existing side by side in peace with Israel, both living within recognized and secure borders.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolutions A/60/L.28, A/60/L.29, A/60/L.30 and A/60/L.31.

We turn first to draft resolution A/60/L.28, entitled "Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People". The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Zimbabwe have joined the list of sponsors.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Draft resolution A/60/L.28 was adopted by 106 votes to 8, with 59 abstentions (resolution 60/36).

[Subsequently the delegation of Tonga informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: We turn now to draft resolution A/60/L.29, entitled "Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat". The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Zimbabwe have joined the list of sponsors.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco,

Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu.

Draft resolution A/60/L.29 was adopted by 105 votes to 8, with 59 abstentions (resolution 60/37).

[Subsequently the delegation of Tonga informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: We turn now to draft resolution A/60/L.30, entitled "Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat". The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has joined the list of sponsors.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu.

Draft resolution A/60/L.30 was adopted by 160 votes to 7, with 6 abstentions (resolution 60/38).

[Subsequently the delegation of Tonga informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/60/L.31, entitled "Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine". The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Zimbabwe have joined the list of sponsors.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia,

Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu.

Draft resolution A/60/L.31 was adopted by 156 votes to 6, with 9 abstentions (resolution 60/39).

[Subsequently the delegations of Mexico and of Timor-Leste informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour, and the delegation of Tonga that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: Before giving the floor to those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote on the draft resolutions just adopted, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Laurin (Canada): With regard to the resolution entitled "Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People", in the absence of clear value added as a result of the work of the Committee, Canada maintains its opposition and believes that the General Assembly should consider reassigning scarce United Nations resources to efforts that contribute more directly to the peace process objectives.

With respect to the resolution entitled "Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat", as we indicated last year, Canada questions the value of the work of that Division. We believe that the time has come for the General Assembly to assess the effectiveness of that particular body and to consider reassigning resources to the implementation of activities more strategic to the protection and

promotion of Palestinian rights and to the achievement of a peaceful settlement. Canada voted against draft resolution A/60/L.29 for those reasons.

Finally, with respect to the resolution entitled "Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine", Canada considers it imperative that an explicit and unequivocal condemnation of suicide bombing be included in a resolution pertaining to the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine. In the absence of an explicit condemnation, Canada has taken the difficult decision to change its vote this year from support to abstention. That abstention should not be misinterpreted as signalling any kind of change in Canadian policy towards the Middle East peace process. We continue to firmly advocate support for the objectives of the road map.

Ms. Rivero (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Uruguay wishes once again to express its conviction that a return to the road map is essential and urgent in order to complete the peace process and achieve as soon as possible a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

Uruguay supports a just and lasting solution achieved through peaceful means, leading to the coexistence of two free and independent States, Israel and Palestine.

My country believes that the creation of a viable, democratic, sovereign and contiguous Palestine will ensure the conditions necessary for both peoples to live in peace within secure, internationally recognized borders, in accordance with international law and with the provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Mr. Southcott (Australia): I am speaking in explanation of Australia's vote on draft resolutions concerning the Division for Palestinian Rights, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Special Information Programme on the Question of Palestine.

Australia is concerned that a number of resolutions of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly are unbalanced in their criticism of Israel. The singling out of one side only for blame in the current situation is deeply unhelpful.

Australia remains concerned at the high level of United Nations Secretariat resources allocated to anti-Israeli activity, including the Division for Palestinian

Rights of the Secretariat and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The annual resolutions endorsing those work units do nothing to streamline or rationalize the Secretariat's structure or make its work more balanced.

Similarly, the Special Information Programme on the Question of Palestine of the Secretariat's Department of Public Information is not a constructive use of United Nations resources, or does it help make the Secretariat's work more balanced.

Those resolutions serve only to distract the parties from more pressing issues and do nothing to help the peace process.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote after the vote.

The General Assembly has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of agenda item 15.

Agenda item 14 (continued)

The situation in the Middle East

Draft resolutions (A/60/L.32 and A/60/L.33)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolutions A/60/L.32 and A/60/L.33.

We turn first to draft resolution A/60/L.32, entitled "The Syrian Golan". Algeria has joined the list of sponsors.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic

Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Draft resolution A/60/L.32 was adopted by 106 votes to 6, with 62 abstentions (resolution 60/40).

[Subsequently the delegation of Timor-Leste informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour, and the delegation of Tonga that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution A/60/L.33 is entitled "Jerusalem". The following countries have been added to the list of sponsors: Algeria and Guinea.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Costa Rica, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Australia, Cameroon, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu.

Draft resolution A/60/L.33 was adopted by 153 votes to 7, with 12 abstentions (resolution 60/41).

[Subsequently the delegation of Timor-Leste informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour, and the delegation of Tonga that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation after the vote, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seat.

Ms. Davis (United Kingdom): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and the countries that align themselves with this statement: Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Liechtenstein and Ukraine.

I would like to explain the vote by the countries of the European Union on the resolution on the Syrian Golan.

The European Union remains concerned about the situation in the Middle East. It reiterates to all parties the importance of maintaining forward momentum towards full implementation of the road map. There can be no military solution to the Middle East conflict. A just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the situation in the Middle East, including on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, must be based on Security Council resolution 242 (1967), which emphasizes the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the region can live in security, and on subsequent Security Council resolutions 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003). It must be based on the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, in particular the principle of land for peace, as well as on the implementation of the road map and all existing agreements between the parties. We will continue to work relentlessly with the regional parties, as part of the Middle East Quartet, towards that goal.

The European Union wishes to reiterate that a final peace settlement will not be complete without

taking account of the Israel-Syria and Israel-Lebanon aspects. Negotiations should resume as soon as possible with the aim of reaching an agreement.

It should be recalled that, earlier this month, the European Union voted in favour of the resolution on the Syrian Golan in the Fourth Committee, which called upon Israel to desist from changing the demographic composition of the occupied Syrian Golan and, in particular, to desist from the establishment of settlements. We believe that the resolution on the Syrian Golan under today's agenda item contains references that could undermine the process of bilateral negotiations. For that reason, as in previous years, the European Union abstained in the voting on that resolution.

Finally, in the spirit of rationalizing the work of the General Assembly, the European Union would prefer to have only one resolution dealing with this issue before this body.

Mr. Mayoral (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to explain the votes cast by the delegations of Brazil and Argentina on resolution 60/40 on the Syrian Golan, just adopted by the General Assembly.

Brazil and Argentina voted in favour of the resolution because it is our understanding that its principal and fundamental thrust relates to the illegality of the acquisition of territories by force. Paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the United Nations Charter prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of any State. That is undoubtedly an imperative norm of international law.

At the same time, I must clarify the position of our two delegations with respect to operative paragraph 6 of the resolution. We wish to specify that our vote does not prejudice the contents of that paragraph, and in particular the reference to the line of 4 June 1967.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Governments of Argentina and Brazil, to reiterate our appeal to the authorities of Israel and Syria to resume negotiations with a view to finding a definitive solution to the situation of the Syrian Golan in conformity with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and in accordance with the principle of land for peace.

Mr. Laurin (Canada) (*spoke in French*): With respect to resolution 60/40 on the Syrian Golan, Canada noted last year that the resolution assigns to a

single party, Israel, the responsibility for resuming negotiations while in reality confidence-building measures and gestures of good will are necessary on both sides. We do not approve the annual submission of this resolution in the plenary, while a resolution of the Fourth Committee on the issue of the Syrian Golan, which enjoys considerable support, is adopted by the General Assembly every year. That is why we voted against the resolution.

With respect to resolution 60-41 on Jerusalem, which we support, Canada believes that the status of Jerusalem can be resolved only in the framework of a comprehensive settlement of the situation between Palestine and Israel. The issue of Jerusalem has yet to be negotiated and Canada strongly urges Israel to refrain from taking any step that would be prejudicial to a just and negotiated peace.

Mr. Bagherpour Ardekani (Islamic Republic of Iran): We voted in favour of the resolutions just adopted under agenda items 14 and 15 on the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, respectively.

The views of the Islamic Republic of Iran on those important issues were articulated during the general debate and the debate on the question of Palestine in this Assembly. In short, we believe that a durable peace in Palestine will be possible through justice, an end to discrimination, an end to the occupation of all Palestinian territories, the return of all Palestinian refugees, the resort to democratic means to determine the wishes of the people, and the establishment of a democratic Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote after the voting.

I give the floor to the observer of Palestine.

Mr. Mansour (Palestine): The voting that has taken place this morning, endorsing — as usual, in an overwhelming manner — the rights of the Palestinian people and renewing the mandates of programmes related to Palestine, is a clear indication of the will of the international community to uphold international law and to support what is right and what is just. We are very gratified that additional countries have shifted their votes by voting in support of those programmes, and we are extremely delighted to see such results.

Today, the voting has sent a strong message of encouragement and support to the Palestinian people, who are living under occupation and suffering tremendously under the ruthless system of occupation, and stated in a clear way to them that the Assembly will continue its support until the Israeli occupation is terminated and the independent Palestinian State is established on all of the land that was occupied by Israel in 1967, including East Jerusalem.

Our people are not interested in resolutions. They are more interested in moving from this aisle where I sit to a seat among those who represent their own countries here. We want to be as equal as anybody else. We have been denied that right for the longest time, and to those who think we are interested in resolutions and who characterize those resolutions as biased and one-sided, we say that what is biased and one-sided is the action of the Israeli occupation. What is more violent: words and resolutions, or the actions of the Israeli occupation army? To those who think that these resolutions are anti-Israel, we simply say that these resolutions are upholding international law and that it is the business of the United Nations and the General Assembly to respect international law and to uphold it. If Israel or any country violates international law, it is our collective responsibility to tell that party — be it Israel or any other — that nobody is above international law.

We would kindly ask those countries that lecture us about the programmes of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and others being unbalanced and anti-Israel to study carefully what those programmes are doing. When the Committee is actively trying to have activities in Europe, and maybe in Japan and other countries to support the Quartet process and the peace process at the political and the economic levels, does that contradict what we are doing, or is it contributing an additional effort to move the peace process forward? Again, we are very, very proud of this moment, and we hope that we can engage in intensive discussions and dialogue with those who hold different opinions — and they are in the extreme minority — so that we can perhaps achieve a mutual understanding and the voting might be different.

In this connection, I want to express our thanks and gratitude to many countries and groups, including the European Union. We negotiated with them during the course of the last three months with a positive,

constructive and flexible attitude. We are proud of the fact that we were able to accomplish many positive things, and both sides accommodated each other in a positive way. We declare our commitment to maintain the positive spirit that our side has demonstrated in this exercise, in order to accomplish much more. I should also like to declare our willingness to other countries, including one country that, unfortunately, changed its vote. We negotiated with that country in a very positive spirit and will continue to do so. We hope that when we negotiate in a positive spirit we will be rewarded, not punished.

I should like to conclude my intervention by reiterating our deep appreciation and thanks to those who co-sponsored our resolutions as well as to those who voted in favour of them. We hope that next year the Palestinian people will be very much closer to accomplishing their objective of having their own independent Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to express my delegation's appreciation for the adoption by the General Assembly, moments ago, of the resolution on the Syrian Golan and the other resolutions on the Palestinian question. The outstanding votes in favour of the resolutions, including that on the Syrian Golan, reflect one very clear fact: the support of the international community of our right to recover our lands occupied by Israel. That occupation has gone on for the last 38 years.

We have listened to some colleagues commenting on rationalizing and streamlining the work of the General Assembly, including reducing the number of resolutions adopted. I am sincere when I say that we are all for it. However, it is truly regrettable that the enthusiasm for rationalization is present only when resolutions on the Middle East and Palestine are submitted — and this at a time when resolutions proliferate and mushroom due to actions by the same people who call for rationalization in other areas which serve certain interests and objectives. These, we

believe, are among the aspects that truly require rationalization. We would have hoped for a single consistent standard. The overwhelming majority of Member States support the United Nations programmes on the Middle East and Palestine, and we are quite satisfied with that.

In conclusion, I would like to stress Syria's great appreciation to those Member States that sponsored the resolution on the Syrian Golan and the States that voted in favour of that resolution. I would also like to stress that Syria will forever remain sincere in its call for the realization of a just and comprehensive peace, something that continues to be rejected by the Israeli Government. We hope that States calling for the realization of this just and comprehensive peace will address the relevant party in reference to this matter and bring pressure to bear on Israel to resume the peace process, which we believe is the only way to realize a promising future in the Middle East region.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 14.

Before adjourning this meeting, I would like to inform members that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of decisions from the 2005 World Summit Outcome for action by the Secretary-General, in particular regarding the ethics office; the comprehensive review of governance arrangement, including an independent external evaluation of the auditing and oversight system; and the independent audit advisory committee, will be issued tomorrow, 2 December, as document A/60/568. This report will be considered in informal consultations under the co-chairs in charge of the Secretariat and management reform, namely, Mr. Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan and Mr. Allan Rock, Permanent Representative of Canada, on Tuesday, 6 December. Members are advised to consult the Journal for the time and venue of this meeting.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.



General Assembly

Sixtieth session

61st plenary meeting

Thursday, 8 December 2005, 10 a.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Eliasson (Sweden)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Reports of the Sixth Committee

The President: The General Assembly will consider today the reports of the Sixth Committee on agenda items 83, 108 and 116.

I request the Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee, Ms. Shermain Jeremy of Antigua and Barbuda, to introduce in one intervention the reports of the Sixth Committee before the General Assembly.

Ms. Jeremy (Antigua and Barbuda), Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee: At the 53rd meeting, held on 23 November, I indicated that the reports of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 83, "Scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel", agenda item 108, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and the procedural agenda item 116, "Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly", would be considered by the Assembly at a later date. It is now a great honour and privilege for me to introduce the reports of the Sixth Committee on those three items remaining on its agenda.

First, I would like to draw the Assembly's attention to item 83, "Scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel". The relevant report of the Sixth Committee is contained in document A/60/518, and the draft resolution recommended to the Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 12 of that

document. It will be recalled that in paragraph 167 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), heads of State and Government stressed the need to conclude negotiations on an optional protocol during the current session. I am therefore happy to state that the draft resolution contains in its annex the text of the draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, *inter alia*, reaffirm, in the context of the Convention and its draft Optional Protocol, the importance of maintaining the integrity of international humanitarian law, and would also encourage States to enact national legislation, as necessary, in order to enable the implementation of the Convention and the draft Optional Protocol. Such legislation would be necessary, particularly in the context of the term "peacebuilding" in paragraph 1 (a) of article II of the Optional Protocol.

By the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would adopt the draft Optional Protocol and request the Secretary-General, as depositary, to open it for signature. In accordance with its article IV, the Protocol shall be open for signature by all States at United Nations Headquarters from 16 January 2006 to 16 January 2007. The Assembly would also invite States to become parties to the Protocol.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. It is my hope that the Assembly will be in a position to do the same.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.



I now draw the attention of the Assembly to agenda item 108, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism". The relevant report of the Sixth Committee is contained in document A/60/519, and the draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 10 of that report. By the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly would, *inter alia*, strongly condemn all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed and remind States of their obligations under relevant international conventions and protocols and Security Council resolutions to ensure that perpetrators of terrorist acts are brought to justice.

The Assembly would welcome the recent adoption and opening for signature of a number of anti-terrorism instruments, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and would urge States that have not yet done so to consider, as a matter of priority, and in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1566 (2004), becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols. Furthermore, the Assembly would note the progress attained in the elaboration of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and welcome continuing efforts to that end, and it would decide that the Ad Hoc Committee established pursuant to resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 shall, on an expedited basis, continue to elaborate the draft comprehensive convention and shall continue to discuss the item concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations, which was also included on its agenda pursuant to the Assembly's resolution 54/110.

The Assembly would decide that the Ad Hoc Committee shall meet from 27 February to 3 March 2006 in order to fulfil its mandate. The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. It is hoped that the Assembly will do the same.

Finally, I draw the attention of the Assembly to agenda item 116, entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly". The report of the Sixth Committee on this item is contained in document A/60/523, and the draft decision recommended for adoption by the General Assembly is reproduced in paragraph 5 of the report.

By terms of the draft decision, the General Assembly would take note that the Sixth Committee adopted the provisional programme of work for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly as proposed by its Bureau. In accordance with the provisional programme, the Sixth Committee would commence its work on 10 October and would close its next session on 9 November 2006.

This concludes my presentation of the remaining reports of the Sixth Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank once again the Chairman of the Sixth Committee and the other members of the Bureau for their assistance and wise counsel, as well as all representatives and colleagues for their hard work throughout the session.

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Sixth Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Sixth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Sixth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Sixth Committee unless the Secretariat is notified otherwise in advance. I should therefore hope that we may proceed to adopt without a

vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Sixth Committee.

Agenda item 83

Scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/60/518)

The President. The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 12 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel".

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 60/42).

The President. I shall now give the floor to those representatives wishing to make statements in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Thomson (United Kingdom): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 25 countries of the European Union. A further 12 countries align themselves with this statement: Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Iceland, Norway, Ukraine and Moldova.

In the light of explanations of position by other delegations during the adoption of the Protocol on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel in the Sixth Committee, the European Union wishes to make clear its position on the following issues.

First, the European Union does not agree that the term "peacebuilding" in the third preambular paragraph and in paragraph 1(a) of article II of the Protocol is restricted to conflict or post-conflict situations. In our view, United Nations operations at any stage of the conflict cycle may be peacebuilding operations under the Protocol. We note that the statement by the President of the Security Council of 20 February 2002

(S/PRST/2001/5) took the same non-restrictive approach.

Secondly, the Protocol extends the application of the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel to all such United Nations operations, without reference to any trigger mechanism of risk or exceptional risk. Indeed, the central purpose of the Protocol is to eliminate the need for any such trigger, as was contained in the 1994 Convention. That has been achieved by extending the scope of application to all peacebuilding operations and operations for the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance.

Thirdly, we are pleased that the Protocol applies equally to operations delivering emergency humanitarian assistance in natural-disaster situations. United Nations and associated personnel require the protection of the Convention and the Protocol in such situations. We regret the fact that some delegations felt the need for an opt-out declaration.

Concluding the Protocol is a very important step forward in the protection of United Nations and associated personnel. The annual reports of the Secretary-General which list the deaths, injuries and harassment of United Nations and associated personnel in the field make alarming reading. The European Union wishes to take this opportunity to pay tribute once again to the courageous work of these personnel on behalf of the international community.

We emphasize the need for universal accession to the 1994 Convention and encourage States to consider rapidly becoming parties to this Protocol. The European Union would like to thank again Ambassador Wenaweser of Liechtenstein for his skilful and tireless efforts in bringing this Protocol to a conclusion. We would like to thank the delegation of New Zealand for this initiative, and in particular Ms. Jennifer McIver for her invaluable contribution to the negotiations. We would like to thank all other delegations for the flexibility and determination which they showed to achieve this result.

Mr. Oshima (Japan): Japan welcomes the adoption of the Protocol to the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel as representing the first concrete achievement so far in the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The Protocol, in expanding the scope of legal protection of United Nations and associated personnel

participating in United Nations activities, also represents a remarkable step forward in promoting the safety of those people on the ground who dedicate themselves, sometimes at the risk of their own lives, to carrying out humanitarian, political and development assistance in peacebuilding and to promoting emergency humanitarian assistance. Further, the adoption of the Protocol demonstrates the will of the international community to work together to provide an environment that will support and promote those valuable activities.

We also believe that through the process of adopting the Protocol, interest in and understanding of the 1994 Convention among States has increased significantly, which should also be regarded as another important development.

I wish to take this opportunity to express Japan's high appreciation to Ambassador Christian Wenaweser of Liechtenstein for the great efforts and initiatives he has taken as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group to bring the negotiations on the Protocol to fruition. Our appreciation also goes to Ms. Jennifer McIver from the Mission of New Zealand for her important contribution. Furthermore, the adoption of the Protocol would not have been possible without the cooperation among all Member States that recognized the necessity and urgency of expanding the legal protection of United Nations and associated personnel. It was a source of great satisfaction for us to actively participate in the discussions and to contribute to the negotiating process with other Member States to make possible the adoption of the Protocol through consensus.

The challenges that United Nations activities face and that the 1994 Convention and 2005 Protocol directly address are indeed daunting and have become more so in recent years. Conflicts and natural and man-made disasters abound and seem to be constantly on the rise, thus resulting in an ever increasing number of United Nations emergency humanitarian, peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. Personnel who are deployed to perform their valuable work on the ground are exposed to risks that seem to become both more complex and more frequent. We are particularly disturbed by continuing attacks directed against United Nations and associated personnel engaged in those missions, despite measures taken by the international community to ensure their safety. Those attacks and similar acts must be strongly condemned.

Japan highly appreciates the contributions that United Nations personnel are making in various capacities, including humanitarian and peacekeeping operations, to save people's lives and alleviate their suffering and to help to maintain international peace and security. Japan has made its own contributions to assist those efforts, both financially and by deploying its own personnel, and it is our intention to continue such efforts in support of the United Nations and in concert with other countries.

Currently, 79 States are parties to the 1994 Convention, and yet many of the host States involved in a variety of United Nations missions and activities are not parties to the Convention. We therefore call for greater participation of States in the Convention and for expanding the scope of the Convention through the Protocol in order to enhance its effectiveness.

We would like to draw attention once again to one of the important purposes of the Protocol, and that is to enable more States to adhere to the Convention and its Protocol. We are of the view that clarity on the Convention's scope of application is essential so that the Protocol can be applied in domestic courts and can be ratified by as many States as possible. That will also be helpful both to host States and posted United Nations and associated personnel. In that regard, Japan believes that the term "peacebuilding", as used in the Protocol, will need to be further clarified through the practice of ongoing and future activities, together with what experience can teach us.

Japan wishes to underscore once again the significance of the adoption of the Protocol in strengthening and expanding the legal protection afforded to United Nations and associated personnel. We continue to call on States which have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention, as recommended by our leaders at the World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1).

We strongly hope that United Nations and associated personnel will be better protected from dangers and risks — as they deserve to be protected in the conduct of their missions — by the 1994 Convention and its Protocol. The international community owes it to itself to continue its utmost efforts to promote their safety, wherever and whenever they are deployed to carry out their noble tasks.

Mr. Playle (Australia): After four years of negotiations, Australia welcomes the adoption of the

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. It is a significant achievement and meets our leaders' expectation that we conclude the Protocol during the current session. We thank Ambassador Christian Wenaweser for his incisive and tireless efforts as Chair of the ad hoc committee and working group that negotiated the Protocol. We also thank New Zealand for coordinating the resolution before us, particularly our friend Jennifer McIver for her leading role in the negotiations.

We are pleased the Protocol does away with the requirement in the Convention that the General Assembly or the Security Council must make a declaration of exceptional risk before the Convention can apply to anything other than a United Nations peacekeeping operation. Such a declaration has never been made. Relying on States to assess whether an operation entails risk has manifestly failed to protect personnel deployed on the full range of United Nations operations. We consider that the Protocol adopts the right approach by instead extending the automatic application of the Convention to two new categories of United Nations operations.

First, States parties to the Protocol will be obliged to apply the Convention automatically to United Nations operations "delivering humanitarian, political or development assistance in peacebuilding". Australia is pleased States were able to agree on this provision as a compromise solution, the scope of which hinges on how the term "peacebuilding" is interpreted. Australia believes peacebuilding must be interpreted broadly to encompass the whole conflict cycle, such that the Protocol would cover pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict operations. We appeal to all States to adopt a similarly broad interpretation.

I note that Australia's broad interpretation of peacebuilding is based on sound precedent that we would commend to all States. Within our own Government, the Australian Defence Force defines peacebuilding as "a set of strategies which aim to ensure that disputes, armed conflicts and other major crises do not arise in the first place or, if they do arise, that they do not subsequently recur". And within the United Nations, the statement by the President of the Security Council on 20 February 2001 recognized that "peacebuilding is aimed at preventing the outbreak, the recurrence or continuation of armed conflict" (S/PRST/2001/5).

Secondly, States parties to the Protocol will be obliged to apply the Convention automatically to United Nations operations delivering emergency humanitarian assistance. Australia is also pleased that States were able to agree on that provision, the application of which, we note, in no way depends on how the term "peacebuilding" is interpreted.

The Protocol allows States parties to opt out from applying the provisions of the Convention to a United Nations operation delivering emergency humanitarian assistance when that operation is conducted for the sole purpose of responding to a natural disaster. Australia reluctantly accepted that provision, but we hope it will never be used. History has shown that natural disasters can often lead to a breakdown in law and order. United Nations and associated personnel deployed in such circumstances should unquestionably enjoy the protections of the Convention.

Australia would have preferred that the Protocol extend the automatic application of the Convention to all United Nations and associated personnel deployed on all United Nations operations. We have made substantial concessions during negotiations on the Protocol before us. Whatever we might regard as its shortcomings, the Protocol has the capacity to provide protection to substantially larger numbers of United Nations and associated personnel than have thus far been covered by the Convention. But this depends on States, including those hosting United Nations operations, becoming Parties to both the Convention and the Protocol.

Above all, we appeal to all States to do just that. The ultimate value of the Protocol we have just adopted, and indeed of the Convention on which it builds, depends on universal adherence to them both.

Ms. Banks (New Zealand): Four years ago, during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, New Zealand led a group of States that sought inclusion of item 83 on the agenda of the Sixth Committee. Since that time, the working group of the Sixth Committee has worked hard to develop a new text to supplement the Convention. Earlier in the session, in the outcome document of the world summit, our leaders stressed the need to complete that work this session. We are very pleased that, in fulfilment of the call issued during the summit, the Assembly today has been able to adopt the new Optional Protocol to the

1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel by consensus.

Throughout the negotiating process, New Zealand has worked closely with those others most interested in the final text of the Optional Protocol. New Zealand is well aware of the substantial flexibility that was required of all of us to achieve the successful outcome we have before us today. New Zealand considers that the unity achieved on the text of the Optional Protocol can be attributed to Member States' shared commitment to acting in the face of rising statistics of attacks against United Nations and associated personnel. In 2004, there were 420 cases of assault recorded against United Nations personnel. In 2005, that number has reached 407. One factor assisting negotiations on the Optional Protocol was Member States' unanimous agreement on the need to avoid the trigger mechanism of a declaration of exceptional risk. Indeed, the Committee aimed to expand legal protection for United Nations and associated personnel through a new instrument that could be applied automatically.

Although New Zealand, among others, would have preferred to extend the protections of the Convention to all United Nations and associated personnel, it was agreed that the Protocol would apply the Convention automatically to two new categories of United Nations operations: peacebuilding operations and emergency humanitarian assistance operations.

New Zealand understands peacebuilding to encompass all political development and humanitarian activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, continuation or recurrence of conflict. New Zealand will continue to work within the United Nations as a collective, broad understanding of peacebuilding that recognizes the need for early identification of situations where peacebuilding is required and includes the consent and cooperation of the Government concerned, where one exists. This approach to the issue of peacebuilding is consistent with the statement of the President of the Security Council of 20 February 2001.

Humanitarian assistance operations respond to human need in life-threatening situations. The risk arising in circumstances that lead to humanitarian emergencies is self-evident and clearly demonstrated by recent experience. While New Zealand is ready to recognize the theoretical potential that a natural

disaster may occur in the most stable of environments, where no particular risk is faced by United Nations and associated personnel engaged in the humanitarian response, New Zealand considers that, in real terms, situations where the legal protections offered by the Convention and the Protocol are unwarranted will be exceptional.

New Zealand wishes to thank the chair of the working group, Ambassador Christian Wenaweser of Liechtenstein, for his leadership and enduring commitment to the goal of a new Protocol that more adequately reflects the range of operations conducted under United Nations authority today. We consider that the long-awaited adoption of the Optional Protocol to the 1994 Convention is a significant achievement, the importance of which was recognized by our world leaders in the summit outcome document. We hope that the adoption by consensus of this new legal instrument will open the door for many more States to ratify the Convention and, at the same time, the Optional Protocol.

Mé Laurin (Canada) *Spokesperson, President, Canada*
 It is a pleasure to note that this important Protocol has been successfully concluded after several years of hard work. Within the framework of this meeting, States have shown their desire to do something about the impunity created by those who perpetrate offenses against humanitarian aid workers. A commitment has been adopted in a legal document, and we must ensure that it will be reflected in concrete action.

In this context, I would like to recognize in particular the crucial role played by Ambassador Christian Wenaweser in guiding our deliberations, which enabled us to reach agreement. We would also like to thank our colleagues from New Zealand, Jennifer Blakey, for her efforts during consideration of the resolution, which once again made it possible to attain unanimous adoption.

I would like to say that the Protocol represents a promising balance of interests and we welcome its adoption as a favourable event that will help to ensure the safety of the United Nations and associated personnel. Having said this, we do regret that it was necessary, in order to attract unanimity, to include an abstention option in the Protocol in situations of natural disaster. In light, more specifically, of events last year, it is regrettable that some States found it necessary to have recourse to an opt-out clause.

(spoke in English)

As the Secretary General has observed previously, the difficulty in the issuance of a declaration of exceptional risk has been the single most important limitation to the protective regime of the Convention. One of the key accomplishments of the Protocol is thus the elimination of the exceptional risk trigger contained in the 1994 Convention by extending the scope of the application of the Convention to all peacebuilding operations and operations for the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance.

As the recent attacks on humanitarian aid workers in Southern Sudan and Northern Uganda illustrate, the provision of humanitarian relief often puts the safety of humanitarian aid workers at risk. It is therefore incumbent on States to continue to take concrete steps to enhance the safety and security of those workers and to hold accountable those who perpetrate attacks against them. We agree with the European Union that the term "peacebuilding" in preambular paragraph three and article II 1(a) of the Protocol is not restricted to conflict or post-conflict situations. A United Nations operation may be a peacebuilding operation under the Protocol not only at the conflict and post-conflict stage, but at the pre-conflict stage as well.

While Canada had initially suggested that a definition of the concept of peacebuilding in the Optional Protocol would be desirable, we have moved away from that position in the spirit of achieving the widest possible acceptance of the draft instrument. We also acknowledge that States' understanding of peacebuilding is still evolving in connection with other discussions in this forum and we appreciate the flexibility provided by the present text to accommodate a wider understanding and set of protections than we might otherwise have been able to achieve.

Mr. Sandoval Bernal (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): With regard to the adoption of the draft resolution on the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel*, the delegation of Colombia wishes to express its gratitude to the chairman of the negotiating committee, the representative of Liechtenstein, Ambassador Christian Wenaweser, for the excellent work he has done and the balance and thought with which he guided the work that led to the adoption of this instrument by consensus.

The Optional Protocol just adopted represents substantial progress towards strengthening the legal protection of United Nations and associated personnel participating in the operations carried out by the Organization. The Convention marked a milestone in that area, even though a complementary, binding instrument was needed to broaden the scope of that protection.

While my delegation joined the consensus on the final text of the Optional Protocol, it would have preferred that the term "peacebuilding" — which is used in the Optional Protocol's third preambular paragraph and its article II to designate one of the forms of United Nations operations — had been properly defined. As would be the case with any binding instrument, it does not seem advisable, from the point of view of judicial precision and the practical consequences of the Protocol's implementation, that a term employed to define the Protocol's scope of application or part thereof should remain undefined, because that lack of definition can lead not only to a broad range of conflicting interpretations but also to the erroneous, if not arbitrary, application of the Convention.

The term "peacebuilding" is an innovation in public international law and, as such, has not been defined. For that reason, it would have been appropriate to include in the Optional Protocol a clause defining the term "peacebuilding" in order to guide the Protocol's application. Our numerous statements on this subject in the course of the negotiations aimed to achieve legal precision and delimitation of that term.

In the absence of such a definition, my delegation interprets that innovative concept, first, in the light of the common understanding of the Spanish word "*consolidar*", from which one can infer that such peacebuilding is carried out only when, after peace has been broken by a conflict, that conflict comes to end. That leads to the gradual re-establishment of the state of peace, which continues until that peace is consolidated.

Thus, legal logic and precision are challenged by assuming that one could propose peacebuilding operations for situations that are not contemplated or even defined by international law, such as pre-conflict situations, destabilizing social unrest and the breakdown of society. Nor would it be appropriate to propose such operations for conflict situations, because

what does not exist — peace, in this case — cannot be consolidated.

Thus, we interpret the term "peacebuilding" in conformity with its use in paragraph 97 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (*resolution 60/1*), which limits such operations to post-conflict situations and which emphasizes the need for a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to post-conflict peacebuilding with a view to achieving sustainable peace, making use of a dedicated institutional mechanism to address the needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for sustainable development.

My delegation will reaffirm those interpretative criteria in the deliberations to be held to establish the Peacebuilding Commission.

Colombia reaffirms its commitment to strengthening the legal protection of United Nations and associated personnel, as demonstrated by the consultation process and the domestic steps we have taken in order to join the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and by our constant presence and flexibility in the work that led to the adoption of the Optional Protocol.

Mr. Lauber (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): Switzerland welcomes the conclusion of negotiations on expanding the scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. The agreed solutions constitute real overall progress compared to the 1994 Convention.

We take this occasion to warmly thank the Chairman of the Working Group, Ambassador Christian Wenaweser of Liechtenstein, for his excellent conduct of the sometimes difficult negotiations. We also thank the delegation of New Zealand, in particular Ms. Jennifer McIver, for their crucial contribution, which led to the conclusion of those negotiations.

With respect to the explanations of vote made by several delegations during the draft resolution's adoption in the Sixth Commission, Switzerland wishes to underline the following points.

First, Switzerland favours a broad interpretation of the concept of peacebuilding in order to ensure the greatest possible protection of personnel deployed on the ground, and we call on future States parties to the Protocol to adopt the same broad interpretation. Nothing in the Protocol suggests that its application

concerning the delivery of humanitarian, political or development assistance in peacebuilding should be limited to the post-conflict phases of a recurring conflict.

Secondly, one of the greatest improvements introduced by the Protocol is the suppression of the mechanism requiring a declaration of risk for the application of the Convention. We therefore stress that the States parties should automatically apply the Protocol to the two categories of United Nations operations within the scope of this instrument, in other words, not only for the delivery of humanitarian, political or development assistance in peacebuilding but also in delivering emergency humanitarian assistance.

Finally, in the light of the improvements introduced by the Protocol to the 1994 Convention, Switzerland has undertaken the domestic procedures for joining the Convention and ratifying the Protocol and calls on States that have not yet done so to do likewise.

In conclusion, the Swiss delegation also hopes that the important question of the relation between the Convention's regime and international humanitarian law is not neglected but can be duly studied in order to find an appropriate solution.

Mr. Gandhi (India): We would like to congratulate the Sixth Committee for its efforts to expand the scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, which culminated in the Optional Protocol contained in the annex to the draft resolution contained in A/60/518.

The safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel is one of India's priorities, as India is a major troop-contributing country. At the same time, we believe that a legal instrument in that regard must contain precise and definite language. Regrettably, it has not been possible to couch the Optional Protocol in precise and definite language, given the need to achieve broad consensus on the Protocol. Nevertheless, given the importance of the Protocol's subject matter, we join the consensus on the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel with the following understanding.

First, article I of the Protocol is applicable only to operations that entail particular risk for United Nations and associated personnel, as stipulated in the third preambular paragraph of the Protocol.

Secondly, the term "peacebuilding", wherever it occurs in the Protocol, is understood to refer only to post-conflict peacebuilding, that is, as the term "peacebuilding" has been traditionally understood in contemporary United Nations documents.

Mr. Tugio (Indonesia): My delegation attaches great importance to the issue of the safety and security of United Nations personnel deployed in conflict zones to work towards, and in the interests of, peace. That continues to be an issue of high priority, because the safety of United Nations personnel is the primary factor in the success of the Organization's political and humanitarian operations.

Regrettably, the statistics regarding United Nations personnel killed in the line of duty have not declined appreciably. It is imperative that we expand the scope of protections available to them, in order to prevent further casualties and promote the effectiveness of United Nations personnel in the field.

Although Indonesia is not among the top 10 troop-contributing countries to United Nations peacebuilding operations, we attach great importance to participation in the Organization's activities designed to restore peace to conflict areas. That has become our national commitment, and we have continued to improve our rapid deployment capacity in readiness for United Nations blue-helmet activities and to make troops available for deployment.

On the basis of that experience, we understand the importance of an appropriate legal framework aimed at enhancing the protection of United Nations and associated personnel. Indonesia strongly condemns all acts of violence against United Nations and associated personnel. We believe that every life lost, every injury caused to, and every detention of and assault against humanitarian personnel is a violation of national and international humanitarian law, and must be treated as such.

On the other side of the coin, such protections also entail obligations on all humanitarian personnel to respect the national laws of the countries in which they are deployed. In that regard, it is important that we uphold the jurisdiction of host States to bring justice in

all cases of violations by United Nations and associated personnel.

During the negotiations on the Optional Protocol in the Sixth Committee, divergent views emerged concerning the Protocol's scope of application. My delegation would like to commend all members for their flexibility, which led to consensus on the approach to the concept of peacebuilding operations. We believe that it is wise to leave it to national legislation to determine the Protocol's application in order to be consistent with the objective of strengthening the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel. In the light of that, my delegation wishes to state its interpretation of the Optional Protocol, namely, that its scope of application shall not be extended to pre-conflict situations. That is consistent with the current stage of the evolution of the Peacebuilding Commission, which deals only with post-conflict situations.

Mrs. Ramos Rodríguez (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Along with other delegations, the delegation of Cuba is pleased that we were able to reach a compromise formula to allow for the consensus adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. That consensus was possible due to the inclusion of the term "peacebuilding", despite the fact that we all know that we do not have a broadly accepted definition of that term, either in political doctrine or under international law. It is therefore now up to States to enact the national legislation necessary to implement the Convention and the Optional Protocol.

In that regard, my delegation would like to state that Cuba believes that the term "peacebuilding" is not applicable to pre-conflict situations or to the provisions regarding emergency humanitarian assistance under article II (1) (b) of the Optional Protocol in instances when such operations are undertaken with the sole purpose of responding to a natural disaster. We believe that there is no exceptional risk in such situations for United Nations and associated personnel that would call for protection beyond what they would already enjoy under the national legislation of host countries and their agreements with the United Nations for the deployment of such operations.

Mr. Shin Kak-soo (Republic of Korea): The Republic of Korea welcomes the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of

United Nations and Associated Personnel. As mentioned in the President's letter, that is the first accomplishment of our responsibility as mandated by our leaders at the world summit last September.

Like previous speakers, we also commend the contributions of Ambassador Christian Wenaweser of Liechtenstein, acting as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and of Jennifer McIver of New Zealand, acting as coordinator, in completing these difficult tasks.

We attach great importance to the value of the Optional Protocol in enhancing and expanding protection for United Nations and associated personnel, whose safety is threatened daily by a variety of dangers. The Protocol lifts the cumbersome and impractical trigger mechanism under the 1994 Convention and thus strengthens and enhances the safety and protection of United Nations personnel engaging in inherently risky work, such as delivering humanitarian, political or development assistance in peacebuilding situations or providing emergency humanitarian assistance.

When States enact domestic legislation to implement the Protocol, the paramount concern should be to ensure the fullest possible protection for United Nations and associated personnel throughout the continuum of conflicts, including in pre-conflict situations. In that regard, it should be our common purpose to safeguard the integrity of the Protocol.

Our efforts to attain the universality of the 1994 Convention should continue. The goal for the new Protocol should likewise be universal ratification.

Ms. Taj El Dine (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): In joining the consensus on the resolution, my delegation did so with a view to extending adequate protection to United Nations personnel operating in the field under exceptional risk. We would, however, like to focus our intervention on our interpretation of three elements of the resolution, whose annex contains the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

First, we understand that both the Convention and the Protocol will not apply in situations governed by international humanitarian law.

Secondly, we believe that the term "peacebuilding operations" does not contain legally defined concepts or provisions. We would therefore like to avoid conceptual ambiguity in the Protocol. My delegation believes that peacebuilding operations seem to constitute a new intervention mechanism for States. Moreover, certain States are attempting to confuse matters even further by stating that peacebuilding operations enjoy a greater margin for action — such as in conflict and pre-conflict situations. My delegation therefore disassociates itself from the concept of "peacebuilding", which is found in the third preambular paragraph of the resolution and in article II, paragraph 1 (a) of the Optional Protocol. In that connection, we understand that article II would be applicable solely to post-conflict situations in which there is exceptional risk. There can be no doubt about that.

Thirdly, with regard to natural-disaster situations, we understand that the Protocol will be applicable only in instances where there is exceptional risk. In addition, we understand the reference in the Protocol to "host State" to implicitly mean a host State that is party to both the Protocol and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Ambassador Christian Wenaweser for his efforts in finalizing the Protocol, as well as Ms. Jennifer McIver for all her efforts and for coordinating our work.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan): Jordan welcomes the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. The Protocol strengthens the protection regime for personnel in the field who are subjected to various risks. We also commend Ambassador Christian Wenaweser of Liechtenstein, Chairman of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, for his outstanding efforts, which ensured the conclusion of the Protocol. We also thank Ms. Jennifer McIver of New Zealand for her role in facilitating consensus on the Protocol.

In the light of other delegations' explanations of position, my delegation would like to make the following comments.

First, in relation to peacebuilding, Jordan understands the scope of the Protocol to include

operations beyond conflict and post-conflict situations. Peacebuilding operations aim to create peace. That defines its scope. The relevant paragraph of the World Summit Outcome (*resolution 60/1*) deals only with a part of the scope of peacebuilding. Again, it does not exclude other parts. Nothing in the Protocol indicates that the term is limited only to post-conflict situations.

The term peacebuilding is a developing term under international law. Its specific definition is to be determined according to future international practice by States, international organizations and other subjects of international law. Furthermore, agreements between the United Nations and host countries under host country agreements, status-of-forces agreements and status-of-mission agreements are considered substantial evidentiary elements on the nature of the peacebuilding operation to be established.

Secondly, Jordan understands article III of the Optional Protocol to assert the right of a State party to exercise its national jurisdiction — including over criminal matters — over United Nations and associated personnel who violate the laws of a State party. According to that article, such exercise is limited by other obligations of that State under international law, including, *inter alia*, the relevant international conventions and treaties applicable to that State.

Mr. Dolatyar (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation welcomes the adoption of the resolution just adopted, as well as the Optional Protocol annexed thereto. We would like to thank and commend the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, as well as all delegations that participated in and contributed to the development and finalization of the Protocol. As the President rightly highlighted in his letter, this is the first achievement and accomplishment of our responsibilities mandated by our leaders at the world summit in September 2005.

My delegation joined the consensus to adopt the Protocol on the basis of the following understandings.

First, the element of particular risks referred to in the third preambular paragraph of the Protocol is an important one that needs to be appropriately verified in every case.

Secondly, regarding the issue of a host State making an opt-out declaration, it goes without saying

that such a State should be party to the Protocol, as referred to in article II, paragraph 3 of the Protocol. Our understanding is that such a declaration can be made at any time prior to the deployment of such operations. We believe that mechanism to be a useful provision that could facilitate the universality of the Protocol.

Last but not least, the different understandings and interpretations of Member States of the term "peacebuilding" in the Protocol must seriously be taking into account.

The President: That concludes the explanations of position following the adoption of the resolution on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 83?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 108

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/60/519)

The President: The General Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 60/43).

The President: I call on the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, who wishes to speak in explanation of position following the adoption of the resolution.

Ms. Taj El Dine (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela joined the consensus on the resolution. However, we would like to make a statement with regard to certain points in that resolution.

Where the fourth preambular paragraph recalls the 2005 World Summit Outcome, we are in fact recalling the result of negotiations that took place behind closed doors and that excluded at least 170 countries. That was the only way possible to reach agreement — in addition, of course, to the imposition of elements and to authoritarianism. Elements such as State terrorism or the difference between the concept of terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to free self-determination were ignored. That could be accomplished only with the representatives of 16 States in a room — that is, it made it impossible to demonstrate to the international community the genuine differences that exist with regard to this subject. Even worse, we presented to the world's peoples the concept of terrorism from the contemporary Western perspective. A much better example can be found in the failure to reach agreement at the recent Euro-Mediterranean summit. There, the differences within the international community on the subject were obvious.

The term "terrorism" began to be used at the end of the eighteenth century, mainly to refer to violent acts carried out by Governments to ensure the people's submission. Those who practice State terrorism control the system of thought and expression, working in tandem with the media. In general, they use selected incidents of terrorism, exploiting terrorism as much as possible and using it as a pretext for Western violence. The cynicism is astounding, to the point of proclaiming transparent lies, such as that they do not torture, but only use innovative information-gathering methods. Therefore, they have sought to have us abandon the original meaning of the term "terrorism" so that the term will be applied mainly to retail terrorism.

For all those reasons, this delegation has reservations about the resolution's fourth preambular paragraph, because we are referring to a discredited document that, needless to say, is null and void and of no effect for the Republic.

There are other elements that led us to examine the concept of this resolution — for example, the sixth preambular paragraph, which recalls all General Assembly resolutions on this subject. That pleases us, because it includes resolution 39/159 of 1984, which vigorously condemns terrorist policies and practices as a method used by States to deal with other States and peoples. Furthermore, in this resolution, we recall two resolutions that are extremely important for my

country: Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). In that way, the international community is appealing to the United States of America to stop protecting the terrorist Luis Clemente Posada Carriles and to extradite him to Venezuelan territory or, failing that, to prosecute him on its own territory. This resolution also requests that Government to take the measures necessary to prohibit and prevent conduct such as that of its Reverend Pat Robertson, who urges the commission of terrorist acts.

I wish to conclude this statement by expressing our fervent hope that, on 27 February 2006, the Special Committee will meet once again to conclude, by consensus, the elaboration of a comprehensive convention for the elimination of international terrorism. That convention must — and this is very important — respond to the demands of the world's peoples. Let us avoid creating a new legal order that protects the strong and condemns the weak. In other words, let us protect the peoples of the world.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 108.

Agenda item 116 (continued)

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/60/523)

The President: The Assembly has before it a draft decision recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 5 of its report.

We will now take action on the draft decision, entitled "Adoption by the Sixth Committee of the provisional programme of work for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly". The draft decision was adopted by the Sixth Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 116.

Statement by the President

The President: We have reason to be proud and pleased that the General Assembly has now adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety

of United Nations and Associated Personnel. I know that this outcome was made possible by the constructive and flexible manner in which the Sixth Committee conducted its negotiations. As many others have done, I thank Ambassador Wenaweser for his able leadership in steering the negotiations to a successful conclusion. I should also like to thank the coordinator, Jennifer McIver of New Zealand, for her efforts in that regard.

Today's adoption of the Optional Protocol is an important step in the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (*resolution 60/1*), as has been pointed out here today. All of those who worked on the Protocol set a good example by the approach and spirit of their work. With a similar search for compromises and creative formulas, we can make rapid progress on other important elements of the world summit follow-up before us.

Our main cause for celebration today is the Optional Protocol itself. Once it has entered into force, it will expand the scope of legal protection to additional categories of United Nations field operations. United Nations and associated personnel continue to face serious threats to their security — including hostage-taking, physical assault and robbery — as they carry out their duties around the world. It is gratifying to note that with the Optional Protocol, that protection will now include United Nations operations conducted for the purpose of delivering humanitarian, political and development assistance in peacebuilding and of delivering emergency humanitarian assistance.

We must condemn those who perpetrate threats and acts of violence against United Nations and associated staff. We remain firm in our resolve to take all necessary action to deal with such threats and to minimize the risks to our staff and associated personnel. That also includes strengthening — as we are now doing — the legal regime of United Nations protection.

I know from my experience in humanitarian field operations how important it is to have this Optional Protocol in place. When I was in Somalia as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in 1992, I saw for myself the dangers faced by our staff in their day-to-day work, despite our best efforts to protect them. Some of our colleagues died while trying to provide assistance.

The Optional Protocol will effectively help to protect and boost the morale of those United Nations and associated personnel who risk their lives to serve the vulnerable and needy of the world. The Protocol will also be of great value as the Peacebuilding Commission begins its work.

As a next step, I strongly encourage all Member States to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol when it opens for signature in January next year. I also encourage Member States who have yet to sign and ratify the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel — which is, as the Assembly is aware, the basis for the Optional Protocol — to do so at the earliest opportunity.

Before concluding and giving the floor to the Secretary-General, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on agenda item 108, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism". I am gratified that a resolution on this important and urgent topic was adopted today. We are reminded of the horrors of terrorism so often these days. The resolution serves to remind us of the challenges the international community faces in dealing with the heinous acts of terrorism.

It is crucial for us all to work together to try to end the current impasse in the negotiations of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, so that we can conclude the convention as soon as possible. The resolution just adopted provides scope for the Ad Hoc Committee to report to the General Assembly upon completion of the comprehensive convention during the current session of the General Assembly, which must remain our goal.

I strongly encourage delegates to use this window of opportunity to continue working, with a sense of urgency, towards a conclusion on the convention. A timely conclusion of work on the convention will send a strong signal of our universal determination to confront the scourge of terrorism. For my part, I will continue to work together with the Chairman of the Sixth Committee on this important matter, as well as on the issue of a counter-terrorism strategy as requested by the 2005 World Summit Outcome. I know that the Secretariat is doing preparatory work on the issue and I intend to report back to you early next year on the counter-terrorism strategy, after consultations with Member States and after contacts with the Secretariat.

I now give the floor to our Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General: I congratulate the General Assembly on the important step it has taken in adopting the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

As I have stressed to you on many occasions, there is no more important responsibility for me as Secretary-General than to ensure the protection of the dedicated men and women who carry out vital missions of development and peace and human rights for the United Nations throughout the world.

Security is also a core obligation of Member States. After all, these are your own nationals. The 1995 Convention is the key legal instrument in efforts to give United Nations and associated personnel the security and the environment they need to do their work. Its entry into force in 1999 was a major step forward in strengthening the legal regime surrounding United Nations protection.

But the Convention had serious flaws: humanitarian, development and other non-peacekeeping operations were covered only through a declaration of exceptional risk. But that requirement was impractical. There are no generally agreed criteria for determining whether such a risk exists. Making such a declaration could be time-consuming. And political considerations could influence what is meant to be a technical assessment. The new Protocol corrects that flaw. It expands the legal protection of all other United Nations operations, from emergency humanitarian assistance to peacebuilding and the delivery of humanitarian, political and development assistance.

At a time when the United Nations continues to face a security environment of unprecedented risk, I thank Member States for supporting our efforts to improve the overall security environment, as well as our security management system under the leadership of the new Department of Safety and Security.

Progress in establishing the new system has been significant. Among the Department's many activities are its efforts to establish close liaison and mutual dialogue between United Nations Designated Officials and host Government security and law enforcement authorities. There is still some way to go in this. I urge Governments to reach out to the United Nations

Designated Officials in their countries, so that we can sustain the current momentum.

I also urge Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention — I think the President also made that appeal just moment ago — and all Member States should become party to the Protocol whose adoption we mark today. Without security, our work for the peoples around the world — your people — suffers.

The Assembly has also received today the report of the Sixth Committee on its efforts to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Terrorism is one of the grave threats facing humanity in these times. The international community has already made great strides in elaborating many international instruments to combat it. The conclusion of the comprehensive convention would be an important complement to the existing legal framework, and it is therefore important that every effort should be made to finalize negotiations on the text during the current session, as agreed by heads of State and Governments in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document (resolution 60/1).

I encourage all of you to explore all possibilities for reaching a successful outcome early next year, and I stand ready to assist your efforts. I also urge Member States that have not yet done so to become parties to, and to implement, the existing anti-terrorism instruments.

I also stand ready, if so requested by this Assembly, to amplify and further refine the elements of a counter-terrorism strategy that I identified in my Madrid speech last March. As terrorism continues to cause death and suffering to innocent people in many parts of the world, we must do our utmost to forge a comprehensive, coordinated and consistent response.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all of the reports of the Sixth Committee.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Reports of the First Committee

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the First Committee on agenda items 85 to 105 and 116.

I request the Rapporteur of the First Committee, Ms. Elvina Jusufaj of Albania, to introduce the reports of the First Committee.

Ms. Jusufaj (Albania): It gives me great pleasure to introduce to the General Assembly the reports of the First Committee on agenda items 85 to 105 and 116. Those reports are contained in documents A/60/451 to A/60/471 and A/60/524.

In response to the General Assembly's appeal, the First Committee continued to fully utilize its existing resources and was able to complete its work at the current session in four and a half weeks, holding 23 formal meetings. The work of the Committee at the current session could be characterized as having been substantively constructive, focused and action-oriented.

The First Committee considered 54 draft resolutions and six draft decisions submitted under various disarmament and related international security agenda items. Of the 54 draft resolutions and six draft decisions adopted, 26 draft resolutions and two draft decisions — almost 47 per cent — were adopted without a vote. As at previous sessions, the entire complex of issues relating to weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and the issue of small arms and light weapons, were by far the most important subjects discussed. Of the 60 draft resolutions and decisions adopted, 19 were devoted to nuclear issues.

The disarmament calendar for 2005 has been eventful. This year, in various multilateral forums, Member States have been addressing issues covering the full spectrum of security and disarmament items. In the First Committee, the overwhelming majority of speakers supported the strengthening of existing multilateral agreements — the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention — and their universalization.

The majority of speakers, however, expressed disappointment at both the failure of the 2005 NPT Review Conference to agree on a substantive final document, and the omission of a section on

disarmament and non-proliferation from the Summit Outcome document. Delegations continued to express concern about the dangers posed by existing stockpiles of weapons in general and of weapons of mass destruction in particular. Many Member States considered that there was an urgent need to reinvigorate the disarmament machinery, especially the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, in order to continue to seek solutions to the current deadlock in the area of multilateral disarmament.

The new action-oriented approach was especially evident in the course of discussions on the entire complex of nuclear weapons. Member States increasingly focused on those aspects of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament that should be addressed on a priority basis in the immediate future. In this context, delegations focused on further efforts necessary to scale down nuclear weapons at both the unilateral and bilateral levels. Those concerns were reflected in a number of draft resolutions, including those on the conclusion of a convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons, on reducing nuclear danger, on renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons and on nuclear disarmament.

In the case of a number of draft resolutions, such as those concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and a nuclear-weapon-free Southern Hemisphere and adjacent area, continued wide support for existing nuclear-weapon-free zones was expressed and calls were made to create new zones as a step leading to a world without nuclear weapons. Member States also expressed their hopes for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

As far as conventional weapons are concerned, many delegations welcomed progress in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, in particular agreement in the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons on the text of an international instrument although a number of Member States expressed regret that the instrument will not be legally binding. The instrument is recommended to the Assembly for adoption in the form of a draft decision.

Before concluding my substantive remarks, allow me to say few words on the issue of the rationalization of the working methods of the First Committee. That issue was considered by the Committee in the context of the overall process of the revitalization of the General Assembly. In follow-up to resolution 59/95 on improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee, the Committee successfully implemented an interactive model of its work by hearing presentations on various disarmament and international security issues, including the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, and the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters. The Committee also heard presentations by the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of the Chemical Weapons, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the Chairman of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, the Chairman of the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the President of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Committee also held an extremely interesting interactive dialogue with the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, on the follow-up of draft resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at its previous session.

For the first time in its history, the First Committee held a direct dialogue in informal session with non-governmental organizations active in the area of disarmament.

Finally, pursuant to the directives of the Assembly under agenda item 116, entitled "Revitalization of the General Assembly", the Committee adopted its proposed programme of work and timetable for its next session, which is recommended for adoption by the Assembly in the form of a draft decision.

Let me now turn briefly to the reports of the First Committee and draw the attention of delegations to some technical errors.

First, the draft resolution under item 97, "General and complete disarmament" entitled "Preventing the risk of radiological terrorism", which appears in A/60/463 as draft resolution XIX, was adopted by the

Committee by a recorded vote of 162 to none, with no abstentions. That was obviously a technical error. The Assembly may wish to consider the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote.

Secondly, members should note that on page 24 of A/60/463 Cuba is erroneously listed as a sponsor of draft resolution A.C.1/60/L.40/Rev.1. Cuba did not sponsor that draft resolution.

Before concluding, I should like to pay a well-deserved tribute to all delegations for their active participation in the work of the Committee and their spirit of cooperation in the common search for a better, safer and more stable world.

I should like to express special gratitude to the Chairman of the First Committee, Ambassador Choi Young-jin of the Republic of Korea, who with his intimate knowledge of disarmament and international security matters, as well as his excellent diplomatic skills, led the proceedings of the Committee with vision and able leadership. Let me also, on behalf of the Committee and on my own behalf, extend our sincere gratitude to the Committee's Vice-Chairpersons, Ms. Gabriela Martinic of Argentina, Mr. Detlev Wolter of Germany and Mr. Lotfi Boucharra of Morocco, for their most effective contribution to the work of the Committee.

I should like also to express my appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, and Mr. Jian Chen, the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, for the leadership they provided the Secretariat staff assisting the Committee and for their valuable contribution.

Special thanks go to the Secretary of the First Committee, Ms. Cheryl Stoute, and her staff, Mr. Sergei Cherniavsky, Ms. Christa Giles, Mr. Tam Chung and other Secretariat staff for their valuable assistance to the Committee.

With these brief remarks, I present the reports of the First Committee to the General Assembly for consideration and approval, as contained in documents A/60/451 through A/60/471 and A/60/524.

The Acting President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the First Committee which are before it today.

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote, if there are any. The position of delegations regarding the recommendations of the First Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members once again that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once — that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee, and that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the First Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance. This means that when separate or recorded votes were taken, we will do the same. I hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the First Committee.

Agenda item 85

Reduction of military budgets

Report of the First Committee (A/60/451)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures". The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 60/44).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 85?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 86

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Report of the First Committee (A/60/452)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland,

Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

The draft resolution was adopted by 177 votes to 1 (resolution 60/45).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Angola and Mozambique informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 86?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 87

Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament

Report of the First Committee (A/60/453)

The Acting President. The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Israel.

The draft resolution was adopted by 180 votes to 1, with 1 abstention (resolution 60/46).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of item 87?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 88**Question of Antarctica****Report of the First Committee (A/60/454)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 60/47).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 89**Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace****Report of the First Committee (A/60/455)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein,

Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

The draft resolution was adopted by 132 votes to 3, with 46 abstentions (resolution 60/48).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 89?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 90

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

Report of the First Committee (A/60/456)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 60/49).

The Acting President: May I take it that the Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 90?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 91

Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

Report of the First Committee (A/60/457)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 60/50).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 91?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 92

Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

Report of the First Committee (A/60/458)

The Acting President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the First Committee contained in document A/60/458?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 92?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 93

Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

Report of the First Committee (A/60/459)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia,

Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Samoa, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tonga, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu.

The draft resolution was adopted by 110 votes to 53, with 17 abstentions (resolution 60/51).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 93?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 94

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

Report of the First Committee (A/60/460)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 60/52).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 94?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 95

Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

Report of the First Committee (A/60/461)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia

and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The draft resolution was adopted by 120 votes to none, with 59 abstentions (resolution 60/53).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of item 95?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 96**Prevention of an arms race in outer space****Report of the First Committee (A/60/462)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq,

Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

The draft resolution was adopted by 180 votes to 2 (resolution 60/54).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Israel advised the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of item 96?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 97

General and complete disarmament

Report of the First Committee (A/60/463)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it 29 draft resolutions recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 94 of its report and five draft

decisions recommended by the Committee in paragraph 95 of the same report.

Before proceeding further, I should like to inform members that action on draft resolution XXIV, entitled "Transparency in armaments", is postponed to a later date to allow time for the review of its programme budget implications by the Fifth Committee. The Assembly will take action on draft resolution XXIV as soon as the report of the Fifth Committee on its programme budget implications is available.

Mr. Ortiz Gandarillas (Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): The proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects has become a global problem and poses a real threat for the very survival of States in all regions of the world. However, a perception of the magnitude of that threat has still not sufficiently penetrated the conscience of the international community, in spite of the fact that all are aware of the devastating effects of a nuclear disaster and the growing potential danger of the acquisition of nuclear weapons by terrorists.

The system for collective security in the twenty-first century requires concrete measures that go beyond national aspirations and goals and that facilitate joint responses to the challenges of today's broader concept of security. Bolivia considers that such a collective security system can be achieved only through full compliance with the provisions of international treaties and other commitments made by States — a demonstration of political will that is equal to our trust in the centrality of multilateralism and that reaffirms the principles and purposes of the Charter.

Mr. Labbé (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like to explain its position on draft resolution XVIII as a whole. Chile will abstain in the vote on the draft resolution. My country remains unconvinced about the need or usefulness of such a resolution.

Certainly we are suffering from a shortage of resolutions related, directly or indirectly, to nuclear disarmament. Chile co-sponsored resolution XI, entitled "Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons". Chile also co-sponsored draft resolution XXII, on the follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. Chile co-sponsored draft resolution IV, entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas". Chile will vote in favour of draft resolution II, entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free

world" — the draft resolution of the New Agenda Coalition. We will also vote in favour of draft resolution XXVI, originally submitted by India, entitled "Reducing nuclear danger". We have just voted in favour of draft resolution XVI on nuclear disarmament.

Chile has also systematically voted in favour of the resolution entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East", and we remain committed to the important ideas expressed in the fifth, sixth and seventh preambular paragraphs. They reaffirm the resolution on the Middle East adopted on 11 May 1995 by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) — one of the essential components of the political commitment that allow for the indefinite extension of the NPT. Chile believes that that resolution retains its full legitimacy and continues to be of great importance.

If it is true that all of the draft resolutions of the First Committee are political in nature, this one is, too — but in a purely contingent and tactical way that in our opinion does not contribute to nuclear disarmament. Chile also has a special interest in the future of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and thus shares the frustration and irritation of the overwhelming majority of States parties that witnessed the failure of the Seventh Review Conference. We know very well why it failed and who was responsible for the abuse of the consensus rule. In voting, therefore, we will fully bear in mind what occurred last May.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on 28 draft resolutions and five draft decisions, one by one. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their votes.

The General Assembly will now turn to paragraph 94 of section III of the report in A/60/463, containing the draft resolutions.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Barbados, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Russian Federation, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Draft resolution I was adopted by 163 votes to none, with 10 abstentions (resolution 60/55).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments".

A separate vote has been requested on operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution II. If there is no objection to that request, I shall first put to the vote operative paragraph 4, resolution II, on which a separate, recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New

Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

India, Israel.

Abstaining:

Australia, Bhutan, Cameroon, France, Jamaica, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Pakistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Operative paragraph 4 was retained by 158 votes to 2, with 11 abstentions.

The Acting President: I shall now put to the vote draft resolution II as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana,

Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

France, India, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Australia, Belarus, Bhutan, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Pakistan, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Slovenia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Draft resolution II as a whole was adopted by 153 votes to 5, with 20 abstentions (resolution 60/56).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 60/57).

The Acting President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

Separate votes have been requested on the last three words, "and South Asia", of operative paragraph 5 and on operative paragraph 5 as a whole. If there is no objection to those requests, I shall first put to the vote the words "and South Asia", on which a separate, recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi

Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

India, Pakistan.

Abstaining:

Bhutan, France, Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The words "and South Asia" were retained by 162 votes to 2, with 7 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of Israel informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: I shall now put to the vote operative paragraph 5 as a whole, on which a separate, recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia,

Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

India.

Abstaining:

Bhutan, France, Israel, Marshall Islands, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Operative paragraph 5 as a whole was retained by 162 votes to 1, with 9 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: I shall now put to the vote draft resolution IV as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria,

Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Bhutan, India, Israel, Marshall Islands, Pakistan, Palau, Russian Federation, Spain.

Draft resolution IV as a whole was adopted by 167 votes to 3, with 8 abstentions (resolution 60/58).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution V is entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, France, Israel, Latvia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, Vanuatu.

Draft resolution V was adopted by 122 votes to 8, with 50 abstentions (resolution 60/59).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour; the delegations of France and Tonga had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution VI is entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan,

Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, Israel, Palau, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 176 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions (resolution 60/60).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution VII is entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia,

Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, Israel.

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 177 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions (resolution 60/61).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution VIII is entitled "The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname,

Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Iran (Islamic Republic of).

Abstaining:

Algeria, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic.

Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 158 votes to 1, with 11 abstentions (resolution 60/62).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Angola and Iraq informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution IX is entitled "Regional disarmament".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution IX without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IX was adopted (resolution 60/63).

The Acting President: Draft resolution X is entitled "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution X without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution X was adopted (resolution 60/64).

The Acting President: Draft resolution XI is entitled "Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia,

Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

India, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Bhutan, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Israel, Myanmar, Pakistan.

Draft resolution XI was adopted by 168 votes to 2, with 7 abstentions (resolution 60/65).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Angola, Benin, Kiribati and the Russian Federation informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution XII is entitled "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities". A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi

Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Israel.

Draft resolution XII was adopted by 178 votes to 1, with 1 abstention (resolution 60/66).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution XIII is entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution XIII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XIII was adopted (resolution 60/67).

The Acting President: Draft resolution XIV is entitled "Addressing the negative humanitarian and development impact of the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Draft resolution XIV was adopted by 177 votes to 1 (resolution 60/68).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution XV is entitled "National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution XV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XV was adopted (resolution 60/69).

The Acting President: Draft resolution XVI is entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian

Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, India, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Mauritius, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Draft resolution XVI was adopted by 113 votes to 45, with 20 abstentions (resolution 60/70).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Angola and Indonesia informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution XVII is entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution XVII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XVII was adopted (resolution 60/71).

The Acting President: Draft resolution XVIII is entitled "Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons".

A separate vote has been requested on the sixth preambular paragraph of draft resolution XVIII. If

there is no objection to that request, I shall first put that paragraph to the vote.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte

d'Ivoire, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uruguay.

The sixth preambular paragraph was retained by 78 votes to 56, with 27 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of Uruguay informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: I shall now put to the vote draft resolution XVIII as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia

(Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru.

Draft resolution XVIII as a whole was adopted by 87 votes to 56, with 26 abstentions (resolution 60/72).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Uruguay informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution XIX is entitled "Preventing the risk of radiological terrorism". Recalling the statement made by the Rapporteur concerning this draft resolution earlier in the meeting, may I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution XIX without a vote?

Draft resolution XIX was adopted (resolution 60/73).

The Acting President: Draft resolution XX is entitled "Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution XX without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XX was adopted (resolution 60/74).

The Acting President: Draft resolution XXI is entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

India.

Abstaining:

Bhutan.

Draft resolution XXI was adopted by 174 votes to 1, with 1 abstention (resolution 60/75).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution XXII is entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*".

A separate vote has been requested on operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution XXII. Are there any objections to this request? I see none.

I shall first put to the vote operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution XXII.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua,

Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Russian Federation, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Belarus, France, Latvia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution XXII was retained by 165 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions.

The Acting President: I shall now put to the vote draft resolution XXII as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao

People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uzbekistan.

Draft resolution XXII as a whole was adopted by 126 votes to 29, with 24 abstentions (resolution 60/76).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Angola and Benin informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour, and the delegation of Germany had intended to vote against.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution XXIII is entitled "Prevention of the illicit transfer and unauthorized access to and use of man-portable air defence systems".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution XXIII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XIII was adopted (resolution 60/77).

The Acting President: Members will recall that, as announced earlier in the meeting, action on draft resolution XXIV will be taken as soon as the report of the Fifth Committee on its programme budget implications is available.

Draft resolution XXV is entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution XXV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XXV was adopted (resolution 60/78).

The Acting President: Draft resolution XXVI is entitled "Reducing nuclear danger".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore,

Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Draft resolution XXVI was adopted by 115 votes to 49, with 15 abstentions (resolution 60/79).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution XXVII is entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palau, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

Draft resolution XXVII was adopted by 158 votes to none, with 17 abstentions (resolution 60/80).

[Subsequently the delegations of Angola and Mongolia informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution XXVIII is entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".

In the Committee, operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution XXVIII was adopted by a vote. However, the Secretariat has been notified that there is no request for a separate vote on operative paragraph 2. We shall therefore proceed to take action on draft resolution XXVIII.

The First Committee adopted draft resolution XXVIII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XXVIII was adopted (resolution 60/81).

The Acting President: Draft resolution XXIX is entitled "Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution XXIX without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XXIX was adopted (resolution 60/82).

The Acting President: Will delegations now please turn to paragraph 95 of Section III, concerning the draft decisions.

Draft decision I is entitled "Missiles". A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic

Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu.

Draft decision I was adopted by 120 votes to 2, with 53 abstentions.

[Subsequently the delegations of Angola and Niger informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft decision II is entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia".

The First Committee adopted draft decision II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The Acting President: Draft decision III is entitled "United Nations conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of disarmament".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

France, Israel, Poland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

Draft decision III was adopted by 128 votes to 5, with 40 abstentions.

[Subsequently the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft decision IV is entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament".

The First Committee adopted draft decision IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision IV was adopted.

The Acting President: Draft decision V is entitled "International instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti,

Dominica, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Draft decision V was adopted by 151 votes to none, with 25 abstentions.

[Subsequently the delegation of Angola informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote on the resolutions just adopted.

Mr. Rodríguez Zahar (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*). Our explanation of vote relates to the resolution on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

During the voting, Mexico joined in the adoption of the resolution on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons because we believed that our points of view had been sufficiently expressed during the voting conducted in the context of the work of the First Committee. Consistent with what was stated on that occasion, and with a view to the next review conference, my delegation wishes to reiterate its concern that the agreements reached thus far continue to be diluted and that instruments are being adopted on the basis of the lowest common denominator.

Mr. Song Se Il (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): This morning, on the basis of its principled stand in favour of nuclear disarmament, particularly the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea voted in favour of draft resolution XVIII under agenda item 97, as contained in document A/60/463, entitled "Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is of the view that nuclear disarmament is the essence of disarmament and that disarmament efforts should be oriented towards the complete dismantlement of nuclear weapons. It is nuclear weapons that pose the most serious risk to the world's peace and security.

The various review conferences of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and this year's High-level Plenary Meeting underscore the urgency of nuclear disarmament. In that context, my delegation is concerned that the United States and its allies are insisting on non-proliferation while setting aside the issue of nuclear disarmament, which is tantamount to a declaration in favour of the permanent existence and possession of nuclear weapons. Such arguments and logic, instead of preventing proliferation, will only push non-nuclear-weapon States towards the acquisition of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear disarmament is the best way to achieve non-proliferation. There cannot be non-proliferation

without nuclear disarmament. It is therefore essential first to remove the root cause of proliferation if we are serious about non-proliferation. The concerns of certain States about proliferation will be automatically dispelled if nuclear weapon arsenals are completely dismantled.

Today, non-nuclear-weapon States are under constant nuclear threat because of the continued development of new types of nuclear weapons and nuclear threats by the super-Power with the largest nuclear weapon stockpiles. Now is the opportune moment for all nuclear-weapon States to take effective disarmament measures towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. A legally binding international instrument on negative security assurances should be concluded with a view to removing the danger of the potential use of nuclear weapons, which is the main concern of non-nuclear-weapon States.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is committed to do all it can to create a world that is free of nuclear weapons forever.

Mr. Gala López (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): With respect to draft resolution I, entitled "Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements", contained in the report of the First Committee (A/60/463), my delegation abstained for the following reasons.

In October 2002, Cuba, together with various other delegations in the First Committee, was concerned about some of the amendments made to the draft resolution contained in A/C.1/57/L.54, which was later adopted as resolution 57/86. On that occasion, my delegation said that the draft resolution constituted a step backwards with respect to resolution 52/30, which was previously adopted by the General Assembly.

Today, the delegation of Cuba wishes to express its dissatisfaction with respect to the text of the corresponding draft resolution, which has just been adopted by a recorded vote. Not only did the new resolution omit several positive elements in resolution 57/86, but controversial wording was inserted, further removing the new text from the letter and the spirit of resolution 52/30. There are no convincing arguments to explain the drastic and regrettable changes to the text of this year's resolution, whose final version continues to have clear deficiencies, including the following.

First, in general, a selective, unbalanced and politicized approach can be noted in the resolution adopted. Secondly, in the resolution's title, as well as in some of its paragraphs, the order of the terms "arms limitation", "disarmament" and "non-proliferation" has been changed, with the clear intention of highlighting the term "non-proliferation".

Further, the number of references to the States parties was reduced. Previously agreed language was not restored to the text. That language had made reference to the concept of resolving compliance issues through means compatible with existing agreements and with international law. The role played by the mechanisms and procedures provided for in international agreements was omitted from the resolution's treatment of the question of verification. Finally, the resolution's operative section contains controversial and ambiguous language open to arbitrary manipulation.

Cuba has always defended the need to preserve and strengthen multilateralism and ensure strict respect for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms limitation agreements. At the same time, we are convinced that States parties, without double standards, must comply with all their respective obligations stemming from all articles of those agreements.

It should be noted that the principal author of the aforementioned text still has in its power a great stockpile of nuclear weapons, despite the fact that it has clear obligations with respect to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including vertical proliferation, as established by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

We emphasize the urgency of full compliance with the provisions of article VI of the NPT. We also emphasize the importance for international agreements to be accompanied by verification mechanisms to promote cooperation among the parties, resolve their disputes, facilitate compliance with obligations and discourage unilateral measures that contravene the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter.

Finally, I would like to reaffirm the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. And we reaffirm that the most effective and most sustainable way to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention is precisely through multilateral

negotiations to conclude a legally binding international instrument that includes international verification measures, to which, as is well known, the principal author of the draft resolution is opposed.

Mr. Ben-Shaban (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): The delegation of my country abstained in the vote on resolution XXVII, on implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, because my country is not a party to the Convention. Despite that Convention's positive qualities, it does not respond to the concerns of my country and other countries.

First, the Convention does not address the security issues of small countries, which have very limited capacities and cannot protect themselves other than through recourse to anti-personnel mines.

Secondly, the Convention does not adequately deal with the issue of anti-personnel mine debris left behind by certain countries that participated in the Second World War and by other countries. We do not talk about the responsibilities of those countries, which have to help smaller countries dispose of mine debris. Millions of anti-personnel mines remain in our countries. They constitute an obstruction to agriculture and development and have caused numerous casualties.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of item 97.

Before adjourning this meeting, I would like to inform members that, in view of the late hour, the General Assembly will take up the remaining reports of the First Committee and the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee — the Fourth Committee — at 3 p.m. today.

Organization of work

The Acting President: Member States will recall, that at its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee that the Second Committee would complete its work by Tuesday, 6 December 2005 and that the Fifth Committee would complete its work by Friday, 9 December 2005. However, I have been informed by the Chairs of both Committees that they will not be able to finish their work by those dates. Therefore, the

General Assembly would need to extend the work of the Second and the Fifth Committee.

In order to accommodate those requests, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees to extend the work of the Second Committee until Friday, 9 December 2005, and of the Fifth Committee until Thursday, 22 December 2005?

If there is no objection, may I take it that the Assembly agrees to this proposal?

It was so decided.

Postponement of the date of recess

The Acting President: In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of members to the date

of recess of the current session. This is also of relevance to all of you. Members will recall that at its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly decided that the sixtieth session would recess on Tuesday, 13 December 2005. However, in view of the work that remains to be done for this part of the session and the decision just taken, I would like to propose to the Assembly that it postpone the date of recess of the current session to Thursday, 22 December.

If there is no objection, may I take it that the Assembly agrees to this proposal?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.